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Baltic Free Trade Agreement Initialed

LD2708181193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer] Today in Jurmala a trilateral free trade treaty between Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia was initialed. There was a news conference, at which Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis, assessed this meeting like this:

[Begin Ulmanis recording] I think that the day passed in a very businesslike way. I would even like to say that what we gave each other today was much more than we were able to sign. I have a feeling that we have passed through yet another barrier to that idea and that thought, of the Baltic countries, that arose even in the 20's; that is, that of the unity of these three Baltic states. [end recording]

[Announcer] Likewise an agreement was reached that all documents determining mutual relations between the Baltic countries will be signed on 13 September in Tallinn. Now listen to what Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, said at today's news conference:

[Begin Birkavs recording] We have agreed that the prime ministers will sign all the documents touching on relations between our countries on 13 September in Tallinn. If initially it was intended that on 13 September what was envisaged during the time of the previous government, a bilateral treaty, will be signed, then a treaty will be signed, a trilateral free trade treaty, between Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. The agreements have been initialled, and in practice there are no more differences of opinion on these issues. There are some very small details that we will settle in the next week, but these details are linked with the further development of cooperation. There is a working group, with specialists working on an agreement on mutual agricultural relations, because the free trade agreement requires a special treaty in this field. [end recording]

[Announcer] In Tallinn, documents are also due to be signed on relations between the Baltic countries and the European Community, as well as a draft declaration on the full integration of the Baltic countries into the European Community. Until 13 September, talks are also to continue relating to the declaration signed by the defense ministers of the Baltic countries on cooperation in the defense sphere.

Incidentally, today while filming the arrival of Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas in Jurmala, where the meeting of the Baltic countries' presidents and prime ministers is taking place, a German television cameraman received a blow in the stomach from a representative of the guard service. It has not been possible to ascertain which country's guard officer delivered the blow.

Baltic Leaders Ask UN To Mediate Troop Pullout

LD2708195193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The presidents of the Baltic states, Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia, and Lennart Meri of Estonia, held a summit in the Latvian sea resort of Jurmala today.

Attending the meeting were the prime ministers, Aldolfas Slezevicius, Valdis Birkavs, and Mart Laar.

The withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics was the key topic of discussion. The presidents of the Baltic states adopted an appeal to the United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, suggesting that the United Nations should appoint experts to mediate in the negotiations of the Baltic states with Russia on troop withdrawal.

The three heads of state also made a joint statement which says that the Baltic states would welcome Russia's readiness to sign troop withdrawal treaties with Latvia and Estonia, together with agreements on schedules of the Army pullout, in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and the Final Act of last year's Helsinki meeting.

Algirdas Brazauskas, Guntis Ulmanis, and Lennart Meri agreed that the three Baltic states share a common goal to become associated members of the European Community. The three presidents coordinated the draft text of a declaration of a free trade agreement with member states of the European Community. It is planned to be signed on 13 September when the prime ministers of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia meet in Tallinn. On that same day the prime ministers should sign a free trade agreement between the three Baltic states.

At the Baltic summit in Jurmala today, the presidents and prime ministers of the Baltic states agreed upon the necessity to establish new structures of cooperation, with special significance being given to the Baltic Council of Ministers, which is to become the executive body of cooperation between Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

The prime ministers of the Baltic states discussed priority spheres of cooperation—power engineering, transport, defense, and security.

CIS Economic Union Based on EEC Principles

MK2708135693 Moscow KOMMERSANT DAILY in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Konstantin Smirnov report in "CIS Coordinating-Consultative Committee" column: "A CIS Economic Union Can Be Created in September"]

[Excerpts] A draft treaty on a CIS economic union is ready for signing on 7 September when a multilateral meeting of heads of state will be held in Moscow. A

session of the CIS Coordinating-Consultative Committee, which ended in Minsk yesterday, finalized the positions on the principles of the economic union. [passage omitted]

According to German Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Cooperation With the CIS States [Goskomsotrudnichestvo], the original version of the treaty was prepared by the Russian committee and its final version has not undergone any substantial changes. Experts presented to the judgment of top state officials two uncoordinated provisions: on the title of the treaty (Ukraine, Moldova, and Uzbekistan propose the term "community" instead of "union") and on the USSR's successors (the Ukrainian delegation stressed the equality of the rights of all the newly independent states to the USSR's legacy). Goskomsotrudnichestvo officials believe that the draft treaty initialed in Minsk is based on EEC integrating principles. Thus, the formation of an economic union presupposes several stages. At the first stage an interstate free trade association will be established within whose framework customs duties will be lowered, nontariff restrictions in mutual trade lifted, and unsanctioned reexport banned. The second stage envisions the creation of a customs union providing for a full abolition of tariff and nontariff regulation. At the third stage a single market of goods, capital, and labor is to be created.

Of special interest are the principles for forming a currency union whose establishment is to proceed in parallel with the implementation of the treaty as a whole. Under the draft treaty, at the stage of a free trade association, mutual financial settlements will be effected both via a multi-currency system incorporating the national currencies, and a system based on the Russian ruble. As integrating processes deepen, the currency union based on national currencies will be transformed into a consolidated (multi-currency) system based on a common reserve currency.

In contrast to the 1957 Treaty of Rome, the economic treaty of the CIS states has no direct effect and calls for concrete agreements on particular articles to be reached for its implementation. Therefore, so far it can be assessed as a mere declaration of intent, which will inevitably result in complications even at the stage when the economic union member states fulfill their obligations.

[Article contains following boxed passage]

Additions introduced into the draft treaty on creating an economic union by the Russian side

The sides remaining in the ruble zone shall pursue a coordinated budgetary policy which provides for:

limiting a consolidated budget deficit at a coordinated level with respect to GNP,

defining the terms and procedures for the formation of extra- budgetary funds,

establishing limits on the internal debt growth related to emission.

Shokhin Reiterates Interest in Union

LD2708133093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Aleksandr Shokhin, the first deputy head of the government, has confirmed Russia's interest in the establishment of an economic union of the CIS countries. According to RIKA agency, he addressed a Minsk news conference on the results of the meeting of the commonwealth's coordinating and consultative committee in the Belarusian capital.

At the same time, Shokhin acknowledged that there are forces in Russia who were seeking complete economic sovereignty. They accuse the country's leadership of giving things away to other CIS countries, he said. As we have already reported, the Minsk conference has completed work on the draft treaty on the establishment of a CIS economic union. It will now be studied by the Commonwealth heads of state and government at their meeting in Moscow on 7 September.

Further Shokhin Comment

LD2708172193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Commonwealth Coordination- Consultative Committee has coordinated the text of a draft treaty on economic union of Commonwealth states within the framework of efforts on union reorganization, Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin told a news conference here today.

A meeting at the Commonwealth headquarters in Minsk on Thursday discussed major approaches of Commonwealth member-states to the creation of a new economic union. After the improvement the draft treaty will be submitted to CIS state heads to gather in Moscow on September 7.

In the words of Shokhin, the meeting revealed certain differences in the approaches. For instance, representatives of some states insist on the use of the word "community" instead of "union" in the name of the new formation. The meeting decided to consider the discussion of this question at the Commonwealth summit.

Other differences have been removed.

Shokhin said Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have agreed on a deeper economic integration despite the fact this will be described as a partial refusal from sovereignty by certain political forces.

Shokhin told correspondents it was decided to limit the number of states to participate in the elaboration of basic documents of the new economic community. In his words, this was done to boost the work. The rest of

former Soviet republics and other states may later join the economic community fully or partially.

Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian Communist Parties Meet

LD2708194093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 27 TASS—Representatives of Communist Parties of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus met in Minsk on Friday [27 August].

They described the situation which had arisen on the former Soviet territory as "catastrophic", voicing strong criticism of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Leader of the Russian Communist Party, Gennadiy Zyuganov, called to unite all sound forces on the territory of the Soviet Union, pointing out that at the first stage, the union of at least four republics should be restored, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Defense Ministers Council Official Interviewed

LD2808143193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0315 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report on interview with Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, by Valeriy Borisenko; from the "Radiostudio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] With the situation in the world so unstable at present, the issue of security is becoming a priority for every state. For that reason six CIS countries have signed a treaty on collective security. But what is the attitude to this problem of those who did not want to enter the single defense space? Our correspondent Valeriy Borisenko put this question to Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers. This is what the general said.

[Begin recording] [Ivashov] Here the situation is different in every state. There are legislative restrictions, and there is pressure from certain political forces. But we do not conclude that if a state has not entered the collective security system, has not signed the treaty, it cannot take part in our defense measures. No, on the contrary, the treaty provides for flexible forms of transition from the centralized system of defense which was characteristic of the Soviet Union to milder and different forms of military cooperation. The states taking part in the treaty are cooperating more closely—these are allies' commitments. States such as Ukraine, Moldova, and Azerbaijan can take part in the collective security system either on a bilateral basis or on a multilateral basis with respect to single issues of interest to them. In essence we already have cooperation of this kind, with respect to the shared system for the use of airspace and so on.

There is no tragedy in the fact that not everyone has joined the collective security treaty, and I hope that the collective security treaty will continue to develop and gain more members. Here, of course, we have to take account of the political situation in those states.

[Borisenko] The Baltic states, for example, are not joining the CIS collective security system. Independently they are unlikely to be able to to ensure their own full security. Does this mean that they will join NATO, and is the North Atlantic Alliance prepared to accept them?

[Ivashov] Recently a delegation, an international delegation at that, from the chief commissariat visited the NATO headquarters at NATO's invitation. When we asked about the possible acceptance of new states as members, and primarily the states of Eastern Europe, essentially we received an unequivocal answer everywhere, that NATO is not waiting with outstretched arms for anyone. NATO is also going through difficult times at the moment, because it has lost its direct and most likely enemy in the shape of the Warsaw Pact. They understand very well that accepting one of the eastern states into their alliance would arouse opposition from the others, and they do not intend to accept all of them. First, that would be an extra financial burden for NATO, and second the acceptance of East European states into NATO will lead again to the direct contiguity of the CIS and NATO. So, assessing all these issues, they say unequivocally that they do not intend to expand NATO at the expense of other states. [end recording]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Aug

LD2808060593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0511 GMT 28 Aug 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 28 (ITAR-TASS)—The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper comments on meetings held in Moscow this week between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze as well as Abkhazian Parliament Speaker Vladislav Ardzinba, singling out these events as "the topic of the week".

The newspaper notes that the meetings recorded the end of combat operations on the Black Sea coast. It stresses that "agreement between the warring sides reached with Russia's assistance is being fulfilled on the whole. The bloodshed stopped, and guns fell silent".

In an article headlined "what ideas do Ukrainian guys defend, dying in Ochamchira?", the same newspaper reminds its readers of the recent funeral of two Ukrainian boys in the city of Lvov, who fought in Abkhazia on the side of the Georgian Army.

Referring to a statement by Ukrainian legislator Anatoli Lukyanchenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes that all Ukrainian fighters manning the battalion formed by the organisation of Ukrainian Nationalist Forces (OUNF) and stationed in Ochamchira arrived in Georgia voluntarily to render "fraternal assistance to Georgia against Russia's imperial policy".

In this connection, the newspaper quotes a note sent by the Russian Foreign Ministry to the Ukrainian side, which says, referring to available information, of the OUNF's intention to dispatch new detachments to Georgia to participate in combat operations against Abkhazians.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries an interview with head of the president's office Sergei Filatov who expressed confidence that Boris Yeltsin and his aides are capable of carrying out economic reforms up to the end.

He said that "the adoption of a new constitution" will be the way out of the present economic crisis in the Russian Federation. The present constitution, Filatov noted, "gives the opposition a chance to commit a constitutional coup and to grab power."

Speaking of preparations for the president's official visit to Japan supposedly this October, he favoured the utmost use of "our potentialities for economic cooperation with Japan."

The TRUD newspaper features an interview with director of the economics institute Leonid Abalkin who commented on "the deep economic and social crisis" in the country.

To improve the situation, he said, it is necessary to establish normal economic logic and a normal economic structure. "For this purpose, we should stop, look around and assess the situation."

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper reports the brief working visits by President Yeltsin to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The newspaper singles out the Russian president's words that the present talks and the singing of documents draw up the line under the totalitarian past and usher in a new stage of relations between independent Russia and the Czech Republic.

In the newspaper's opinion, "the greatest shock, above all among Slovakia's neighbours, was provoked by the fact that the republic signed an agreement on military cooperation with Russia on Thursday".

The newspaper notes that such a turn of events was not expected even by the NATO headquarters in Brussels which earlier regarded quite seriously statements by Slovak leaders of their desire to join this bloc.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA newspaper features a long article by leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennadi Zyuganov.

Claiming that the Russian Federation "increasingly resembles a rusty delayed-action atomic bomb," he points at the same time to the need for everyone to understand that "a fratricidal civil war cannot be justified by any theoretical or ideological studies or benevolent intentions."

The PRAVDA newspaper singles out a decision by the Russian side to delay the pullout of Russian troops from Lithuania, which, according to the newspaper, thwarted a meeting between the two countries' leaders but has not slowed down activities by the Lithuanian right-wing opposition led by V. Landsbergis.

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Agreement Reached With Lithuania on Troop Pullout

LD3008105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug—Russia and Lithuania have agreed to resume the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Lithuania and to complete them in the near future. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from a source at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

An agreement has also been reached to hold a meeting between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Algirdas Brazauskas in order to discuss in detail the whole complex of Russian-Lithuanian relations.

'Frank' Yeltsin-Brazauskas Phone Conversation

LD3008120093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—A comprehensive and frank telephone conversation took place today between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. A wide range of issues of the development of relations between the two states was examined during the conversation.

According to a release by the Russian president's press service, it was confirmed that Russia and Lithuania favor the further development of bilateral relations on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, equality, noninterference in each other's affairs, and respect for mutual interests. They will do everything necessary to impart new dynamism to these relations, to intensify mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres, and to expand political contacts.

An understanding was reached on the resumption and conclusion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuanian territory very soon. Work on an agreement on the social protection of Russian military pensioners must be completed. The issue of compensation will be the subject of further talks.

The whole range of Russian-Lithuanian relations will be discussed thoroughly and in detail at a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Algirdas Brazauskas, according to the release by the Russian president's press service.

Date Set for 31 Aug

LD3008120693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius August 30 TASS—Russia will withdraw its troops from Lithuania by Tuesday [31 August], according to President Algirdas Brazauskas who spoke on the national radio Monday after a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin.

He said they agreed that "the Russian Army will be withdrawn from Lithuania before the end of the current month".

"This was a good and frank conversation during which we found with President Yeltsin an acceptable compromise for both sides and agreed on a summit meeting in September", Brazauskas said.

Brazauskas also said that the presidents had agreed on the text of a bilateral declaration which stresses that the withdrawal of the Russian troops opens a new, "blank page in relations between our countries".

The Lithuanian president welcomed Russian democratic transformations saying they would influence not only close neighbours, but the whole world as well.

"We are vitally interested that the positive changes which we are feeling today become irreversible", he added.

In Moscow the press service of the Russian president said Yeltsin and Brazauskas had discussed a wide range of issues of bilateral relations.

Russia and Lithuania stand for further development of relations on the basis of sovereignty, equality, non interference into internal affairs, respect of mutual interests. The two countries will work to make the relations more dynamic, boost cooperation in all spheres, increase political contacts, according to the press service.

The issue of compensations to Lithuania will be discussed at future talks, it added.

Ministry Spokesman on Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Travels

LD2708132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 27 Aug 93

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—"Boris Yeltsin's visits to Warsaw, Prague, and Bratislava were very productive and signified a historic breakthrough in Russia's relations with these countries," Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Department of Information and Press of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a briefing today.

Among the topics covered by the Foreign Ministry spokesman was the visit to the United States by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, which begins on 29 August. Grigoriy Karasin reported that the signing is planned of a package of documents on expanding cooperation.

Touching on the issue of the five borderguards seized by mojahedin on the Tajik-Afghan border, the department's head stated that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is continuing in its active efforts to achieve their release

as soon as possible. The United States, Iran, and Pakistan have expressed their readiness to participate in resolving this problem.

The Russian diplomat expressed "a certain bewilderment" over recent remarks by U.S. officials regarding the problem of the Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania and voiced the hope that these remarks are not evidence of a revision of the United States' well-considered stance on this problem.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin Arrives in U.S. for Visit

'No Problems' Over Accords

LD2708180893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, declared that the five documents which are due to be signed during his forthcoming visit to the United States have been initialed in Washington and that "as of now, no problems remain" between the two sides relating to those documents.

Receiving ITAR-TASS and IZVESTIYA correspondents today, the prime minister said that the commission set up on the instructions of the presidents of the two countries, the cochairmen of which are Chernomyrdin himself and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, will concentrate on two fields of cooperation: the fuel and power complex and space technology. Specific issues have been prepared in both fields, and they will have to be resolved during the visit.

Viktor Chernomyrdin does not believe that any problems will prevent the documents from being signed—including the problem of the schedule for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania, which he said was not even raised during a lengthy conversation with the U.S. ambassador today.

The Russian prime minister will begin his visit not in Washington, where meetings with the political leaders of the United States have been planned, but in Houston, the center of the U.S. oil business. A number of agreements on cooperation in the gas industry will be signed there. The stay in Houston will also include meetings with heads of the oil companies wishing to operate in Russia, particularly firms which will be participating in the development of the oil deposits on the sea shelf of the island of Sakhalin (three out of four companies involved in the Sakhalin project are American and one is from Japan). The prime minister said that "we have approached a stage on the Sakhalin [project] where it is time to start working. I am signing a governmental decision on this project today which in essence clears the way for work to begin."

The prime minister gave a sharply negative response to the notion of "aid" in Russia's international relations with the United States and West European countries. He pointed out that "I will never ask for anything", except for "cooperation on equal terms and ensuring Russia's access to the world market". "As for imposing or dictating conditions to us, I will never let this happen."

The conversation with the prime minister went beyond the framework of the U.S. theme, and in reply to the question as to whether he had changed his point of view on the problem of the "Northern territories" after the president's explanations "about the diversity of approaches in resolving the territorial dispute with Japan", Viktor Chernomyrdin affirmed once again: "My position and the position of the Council of Ministers Presidium is that the islands will not be given up as long as I hold the post of prime minister."

Going over to the problems of the work of the Russian Government, the prime minister noted that its entire activity, the entire complex of measures taken, are aimed at combating the growth of inflation. The prime minister attributed the recent conflict in the government, connected with accusations leveled at First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev to "the mistakes of youth, inexperience, and the emotion connected with that." Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that members of the Council of Ministers have been warned that "henceforth, all investigations should take place inside the government, not outside it, to avoid the entire state and the whole world being shaken by personal differences." He was also skeptical about the concept of "resignation" which some politicians have taken up in defense of their own interests. "The government may resign, but ministers who do not live up to their post will be punished and simply dismissed," the chairman of the Council of Ministers said. Moreover, Viktor Chernomyrdin does not exclude the possibility of "major and tough talks in the government." He stressed that as prime minister, a procedure whereby "one master [khozyain] speaks and all the others nod their heads" is foreign to him. But positions and differences will be explained "in a civilized way," he added.

Viktor Chernomyrdin paid tribute to Mikhail Fedotov as a fine and worthy man. Fedotov resigned as minister for the press on the political grounds that he found it impossible to implement the Law on the Press with parliamentary amendments with which he disagrees. On the question of rumors that the prime minister is reluctant to see Mikhail Poltoranin as minister for the press, Viktor Chernomyrdin said: "In our time we have both been vice premiers and have never done one another any harm. I fail to see any reason for such rumors." Moreover, he added, at the Russian president's recent meeting with heads of the electronic media a number of editors told Boris Yeltsin of their wish to see Mikhail Poltoranin appointed as minister for the press, "and I see no reason to object".

On the question of opposition demands for the setting up of a "coalition government," Viktor Chernomyrdin said that he does not see any truly influential political parties in Russia which would be capable of forming a mature cabinet. He emphasized at the same time that his doors are open to experts and specialists with well-thought-out anti-crisis proposals and he added that the government is in need of "social and political foundations".

Comments on Cooperation

LD2908083893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0806 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin left for the United States of America on Sunday [29 August] on an official visit.

On the eve of his departure he said in an interview with ITAR-TASS that he had signed a resolution granting American companies the right to develop oil deposits in the Sakhalin shelf in the Russian Far East. The project will also involve the Russian state concern Gazprom. The premier said the implementation of the project will help provide gas not only to Sakhalin, but also the Far East and in the future to South Korea and Japan.

Speaking about scientific and technological cooperation between Russia and America, Chernomyrdin said "we no longer need military blocs like NATO or the Warsaw Pact. We need other 'blocs' to develop deposits and promote scientific and technological cooperation."

He believes that time has come for Russia to sell not only raw materials on the world market but also know-how, especially space technologies. "This will enable us to create additional jobs and receive additional economic advantages," the premier stressed.

Chernomyrdin said that Russia will continue supplies of cryogenic engines to India. At the same time he noted that advanced technologies will be sold to other countries without detriment to Russia's own security and so that other countries could not create delivery means for nuclear weapons.

Chernomyrdin expressed regret over the Russian parliament's decision to approve the state budget for 1993 with a 50 per cent deficit. "We need learn to live according to our means," the prime minister stressed and urged the lawmakers to reconsider their decision.

The prime minister said that the government plans further support for business enterprise in Russia. "The first 25 billion roubles have been earmarked from the budget to support the development of small and medium-scale businesses. There will be more allocations," Chernomyrdin said.

Holds News Conference

LD2908114793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin believes the time has come for Russia to put on the world market not only raw materials, but also technologies, especially space technologies. This will allow us to create additional jobs and receive additional economic benefits, the prime minister said today.

[Correspondent Barchukov] During the Russian Federation official's visit to the United States, a wide range of economic issues will be discussed, primarily related to cooperation in the area of space technologies.

[Chernomyrdin] "We believe the signing of this document, or rather of these documents, will give us an opportunity to work with the United States and other countries in the next few years, up to the year of 2000, to jointly launch spaceships, stations, and satellites. This will be very profitable for us. First, it will allow us to keep jobs; second, it will bring us economic benefits. It is good all round. This is the first part. Today I do not see any impediments preventing us from going ahead.

"The second part includes critically important questions of our cooperation, because there are other spheres of activity in which we can cooperate with U.S. companies. We have publicly announced, and we keep saying, that foreign capital can be invested here in this country."

[Barchukov] The Russian prime minister also touched on principles of international politics and, among other things, future prospects for military blocs.

[Chernomyrdin] "I believe we have reached the time when there is no need for [military] blocs. We need other blocs—in order to jointly prospect deposits, for example."

[Barchukov] This is probably why Viktor Chernomyrdin yesterday signed a government decision on prospecting an oil shelf in Sakhalin by U.S. companies. During the implementation of this project, a gas network will be created on Sakhalin and facilities will be built to deliver gas to the Far East, and in the future to Korea and Japan.

However, journalists were also interested in issues unconnected with the forthcoming visit, in the critical questions of life at home, and primarily with parliament's adoption of a state budget with a built-in 50 percent deficit.

[Chernomyrdin] "This budget is not feasible. One cannot work with such a budget deficit."

[Barchukov] Viktor Chernomyrdin also stated that he has not yet lost hope of finding a compromise with the

Supreme Soviet and of convincing it to change its decision. We must learn to live according to our means, he pointed out.

[Announcer] The prime minister also stated that the government intends to continue supporting enterprise in Russia. The first 25 billion rubles have already been earmarked in the budget for the development of small- and medium-size businesses. Additional funds will be also allocated for this purpose, Viktor Chernomyrdin emphasized.

Interviewed Before Departure

LD2908141193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1120 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today left for a working visit to the United States. Pundits believe that economic issues will head his agenda there, overshadowing politics. Anyway, our correspondent Olga Belyayeva overtook Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] at the steps of the plane.

[Belyayeva] Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin is going to study U.S. energy and aerospace complexes, and take part in a session of an intergovernmental commission for energy and space, which has been set up by a decision of the U.S. and Russian presidents.

[Chernomyrdin] "The main aim of my trip is to carry out the president's instructions. We will look once again into two major issues we have already discussed. We believe the signing of this document, or rather of these documents, will give us an opportunity to work with the United States and other countries in the next few years, up to the year 2000, to jointly launch spaceships, stations, and satellites. This will be very profitable for us. First, it will allow us to keep jobs; second, it will bring us economic benefits. It is good all round. This is the first part. Today I do not see any serious impediments preventing us from going ahead.

"The second part consists of questions of our cooperation. These include what I have already mentioned when I spoke about the first part, but there are also other spheres of activity in which we can cooperate with U.S. companies. This is also very important. We have publicly announced, and we keep saying, that we are giving every opportunity for foreign capital to be invested here in this country. This too is very important, and it has to be done on a mutually beneficial basis."

[Belyayeva] Embarking on his trip overseas, Viktor Chernomyrdin is not forgetting home problems. One particular issue that causes him much concern is the Russian parliament's refusal to adopt the budget amended by the president.

[Chernomyrdin] "The time has now come to find compromises in all matters, and above all in this one. This is vital for our economy today. This budget is just not feasible. One cannot possibly work with such a budget deficit. It is not a question of personal likes or dislikes. We have got to learn to live within our means. Look, we are not denying that there will inevitably be a deficit, but it has to be kept in reasonable limits, and we have done everything to achieve this. One characteristic trait: On the eve of the discussion, we did a huge amount of work. We looked once again at the revenues, at ways to increase them. We also looked at ways to cut expenditure, without prejudice to our people."

[Belyayeva] As far as increasing revenue is concerned, the results of his talks may well help mend Russia's budget, notably with regard to the commodities that are in highest demand, i.e. our high technologies. By selling them, we will be able to revitalize research and to speed up conversion of the defense industry. It is the latter, which can boast the highest proportion of high technologies, that has found itself in the deepest crisis. In this domain, the United States is the principal buyer. Thus, Russia's profits from launching U.S. satellites with Russian rockets and from the use of our research in the area of man's long-term stay in space are estimated at $700 million. Not everyone, though, seems enthusiastic about that. So I put this question to the prime minister.

[Belyayeva] "Viktor Stepanovich, a question from Radio Rossii. Our eastern partners, notably India, have accused the United States of monopolizing high precision technologies, space technologies in particular. What would you say to that on the eve of your visit to the United States?

[Chernomyrdin] "Well, it's hard for me to speak for India, but as for us, this is exactly what we are currently working at. I mean space. We are expanding it. Personally, as far as Russia is concerned, there has to be a breakthrough. Maybe we are not publicizing it enough, maybe not everybody in this country knows it, but in essence this is what we intend to do, and what has been outlined at meetings between Presidents Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Clinton. So this is not the first time, but a continuation, or even a sort of finale. In essence, it is a breakthrough for Russia.

"In our dealings we will by no means infringe upon India's interests. We will carry on supplying them with engines, as we have always done. It is, I repeat, a question of technologies. Today we have to find solutions. Together with India, we will be looking for a solution, and I think the United States and India are also looking for solutions. It is a question of preventing other countries from creating nuclear weapon carriers.

"In the final analysis, we are looking after Russia's interests here. We will not benefit from any country possessing nuclear weapon carriers. Look at those who you are asking about: where do they stand? So first and foremost we are thinking of Russia.

"Maybe again we are not doing enough publicity, but these are the two most important issues: the first is

Russia's security, and the second is the economic part. This is very important for us. We cannot tolerate, with all our fine achievements, being restricted from all sides. So this is the main issue, and I'd like our people to know about it."

[Announcer] That was Viktor Chernomyrdin interviewed by Olga Belyayeva at the government airport in Moscow a few minutes before the start of the Russian prime minister's tour of the United States.

Arrives in Houston; Itinerary Outlined

LD3008032993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2351 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Houston, Texas, 30 Aug 93 (TASS)—To discuss and resolve a number of specific issues regarding economic cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of space, nuclear power engineering, and the fuel and energy complex—this is how Victor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers and of the Russian Federation Government, defined the aim of his five-day working visit to the United States, which started on Sunday [29 August]. Upon his arrival at the U.S. Ellington Air Force base, the Russian prime minister told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "I hope that the nature of the trip by the Russian governmental delegation will be an exclusively businesslike one." He also expressed the hope that "the American side shares such an approach with us."

According to the program of the visit, on Monday the head of the Russian cabinet will meet U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary, and representatives from the Marathon and McDermott oil and gas companies and will attend the ceremony of signing the framework agreement between the Enron company and the Gazprom Russian joint stock company, which Viktor Chernomyrdin helped to establish.

Chernomyrdin is scheduled to address a large group of U.S. business representatives and to visit the Johnson Space Center.

On August 31 Chernomyrdin will visit the Kennedy Space Research Center in Florida, where he will meet with NASA directors. Later that day, Chernomyrdin is scheduled to tour the Saint Lucia, Florida nuclear electric power station, where facility engineers will stage a full-scale imitation of an accident at the station and demonstrate emergency control measures.

Chernomyrdin most intensive days are scheduled for 1-2 September, while the prime minister is in Washington. An intergovernmental commission for cooperation in the sphere of nuclear power engineering and space is planned, to be chaired by Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Gore. Chernomyrdin will meet President Clinton; M. Camdessus, director of the International Monetary Fund; and E. Stern, acting president of the World Bank. In addition, the Russian prime minister will address representatives from American engineering and aerospace industries, and also hold a news conference for journalists.

A package of Russian-American documents is expected to be signed during the visit, covering cooperation in space research, export of space technologies, fuel and energy cooperation, and environmental conservation. Chernomyrdin will return to Moscow 3 September.

Speaks at Houston Airport

LD3008042793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0225 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Houston, Texas, 30 Aug 93 (TASS)—Speaking at the airport on his arrival in Houston, [Russian Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that the forthcoming meetings and talks during the Russian governmental delegation's visit may become "a spur to the active development of economic, trade, scientific, and technical relations between the two countries." Chernomyrdin thinks that the first session of the intergovernmental commission, set up at the initiative of the Russian and American presidents to expand cooperation in the sphere of power engineering and space, scheduled for 1-2 September in Washington, will also be successful.

Replying to journalists' questions, Chernomyrdin expressed the opinion that during the talks with the American side "there will be an opportunity for them to distance themselves from all the political storms and to get down to business."

On his way to the United States, Chernomyrdin had a brief stopover in Ireland, where he met with Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds. According to a report given to ITAR-TASS by sources in the Russian delegation, the two leaders talks covered bilateral relations. It was noted that these ties "are progressing." Chernomyrdin stated the intention of Russian enterprises and business circles to expand their activity in the Shannon free economic zone.

An outcome of their talks was an agreement to send the Irish transport and energy minister, accompanied by leading businessmen, to visit Moscow in October for the purpose of activating economic cooperation between the two countries. The Irish prime minister also confirmed the invitation to President Yeltsin. Specific dates of his visit to Ireland will be agreed by diplomatic channels.

U.S. Claims About Handling of Aid Shipments Rebutted

PM2708145793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 93 First Edition p 6

[Sergey Taranov report: "Russian Federation Government Rejects Charges of Disrupting Humanitarian Aid Shipments"]

[Text] The Russian Government Commission for Questions of Humanitarian and Technical Aid has prepared a detailed report examining U.S. press articles which claim that Russia is disrupting delivery of humanitarian freight.

The United States is primarily worried by the problem of prompt unloading of ships, which are allegedly standing idle in Russian and CIS ports. President Clinton's opponents claim that Russia is supposedly not up to receiving the humanitarian freight, and therefore the U.S. aid program should either be axed altogether or cut to the bone. In actual fact it is a question of just a few extremely contentious instances that have been used by the Clinton administration's enemies for their political ends.

The U.S. ship Aspen carrying grain for Kyrgyzstan hung around in Novorossiysk for instance. The reason for this is that the recipients failed to pay for the grain's shipment by rail since rates had risen 120 percent since 1 August (due to the raise in prices of energy sources). However not Russia, or the United States, or Kyrgyzstan signed any agreements saying that the railroad would carry the humanitarian freight free of charge. What is more, all Russian recipients of U.S. aid are paying railroad personnel on time and at the new rates.

The Chestnut Hill diesel ship had difficulties unloading: First an Estonian port refused to accept it, then it was kept hanging around on the St. Petersburg roads for several days. The reason being that the shipowner had sent the diesel ship to Estonia without coordinating this with the Russian Government commission and no one was expecting it there. But the Chestnut Hill was ultimately unloaded and even saved on "lay days," that is, it left for home on time.

According to Aleksandr Zhitnikov, first deputy chairman of the Commission for Questions of Humanitarian and Technical Aid, all the U.S. ships that have entered Russian ports for unloading were processed without demurrage. This was facilitated by the special Russian Federation Government decree whereby orders of all organizations involved in delivering humanitarian aid are carried out first without excess delay.

By mid-August Russia had received the bulk of the U.S. humanitarian aid supplied on the "from one government to another" principle: 520,000 tonnes of wheat, 210,000 tonnes of maize, 27,000 tonnes of rice, 4,320 tonnes of peanuts. All this was sold, as the U.S. side wished, at Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange and Saratov Grain Exchange auctions and the proceeds—around 20 billion rubles—were used to help the needy, support the agrarian sector, and for socially important programs to promote reforms in Russia.

In order to totally "wind up" the U.S. Government aid program for 1993 (totaling $173.3 million) Russia only has to receive 60,000 tonnes of rice, which are to arrive in the next few weeks. But that is not all. The second food aid "front" has been opened by the U.S. charitable organizations CARE, the International Orthodox Charity Association, the Catholic Service of Charity, and the Salvation Army—the U.S. Department of Agriculture has concluded agreements with them to supply Russia with dried milk, babyfood, vegetable oil, butter, rice, and so on (totaling $72.9 million).

What is more, Aleksandr Zhitnikov said, Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin agreed in Vancouver to supply extra "humanitarian" aid worth $194 million in 1993. Thus, U.S. free aid totals $444 million.

Finally, Zhitnikov concluded, there is one important comment to make about the articles in the U.S. press. These articles often talk about things that have nothing to do with humanitarian aid shipments. There have been cases when, addressing problems of grain shipment, they have simply confused "humanitarian" food with what Russia buys from the West on credit and with its own money.

Columnist Discusses Aspin's Request for Additional Funds

PM2708082593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev article: "Why Pentagon Chief L. Aspin Is Trying To Obtain Additional Subsidies"]

[Text] Secretary of Defense Les Aspin's demand for additional appropriations of $20 billion for the fiscal years 1994-98 has been actively discussed on the pages of the U.S. press for several days now. It was put forward in a report by the secretary to high-ranking administration staffers, THE WASHINGTON POST writes. The text of the report was not published, but a number of newspapers are citing excerpts from it.

It should be borne in mind that, following the end of the "cold war," George Bush's administration started making certain reductions in military expenditure. The plan was that it should be reduced further over the next five years. Bill Clinton has continued this policy. Whereas under his predecessor the military budget for fiscal 1993 was set at $274.3 billion, the incumbent head of the White House has requested $11 billion less for 1994.

But, in the face of the acute budget deficit which the United States is experiencing, the administration and Congress are looking at all possible ways to effect savings. Clinton's recently approved budget program stipulates notably that appropriations to the Pentagon will be cut even more in the next few years.

At first the Department of Defense did not object. Furthermore, its in-house Military Policy Review Committee came to the conclusion that the implementation of the new U.S. strategic concept will require far less manpower and resources than had been envisaged earlier. But now Les Aspin has started to object resolutely to certain reductions. He maintains notably that it is necessary to retain 12 rather than 10 aircraft carriers. It is

also being proposed that the program for the construction of the expensive B-2 strategic bombers should also be continued.

You can perceive a certain trend in Aspin's aspiration to obtain a substantial subsidy to his department's budget, which is large as it is. It is generally being displayed more and more clearly in Washington's policy. At a time when there is no direct military threat to the United States, this country has for some reason become very concerned about the protection of "U.S. strategic interests." Plans to interfere in the affairs of other countries are being elaborated to this end, as proved by the draft Presidential Directive No. 13 (see KRASNAYA ZVEZDA of 10 August of this year). And the White House is beginning to resort to the language of ultimatums increasingly frequently. For example, it has taken the liberty to threaten Russia with the discontinuance of all but humanitarian aid if it delays the withdrawal of its troops from Lithuania.

All this is a recurrence of the policy of strength. And it requires money, big money. So the chief of the Pentagon is putting forward new ideas, appealing to Congress and to the public in this.

In this connection, another aspect of the matter deserves attention. Washington is examining plans for increasing military expenditure. Meanwhile, the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense cannot even obtain the paltry sums which have already been allocated to it on paper. Is it not time to start thinking abut the consequences which may ensue?

U.S.-Ukrainian Military Contacts Denounced

MK2808130093 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No. 97, 28 Aug 93 (Signed to Press 27 Aug 93) p 7

[Igor Korotchenko report: "What Grudge Does Kiev Harbor?"]

[Text] It is well known that the Russian Federation's political authorities have reacted negatively to U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin's initiative put forward during his June visit to Kiev. The Pentagon chief's proposals boiled down to the establishment of international control over and involvement of foreign (American) personnel in the dismantlement and subsequent storage of warheads from intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) deployed on Ukrainian territory.

Expressing emphatic protest against the very raising of the question, Russia stated that under agreements already reached Ukraine is to hand over to the Russian side all nuclear warheads without any preconditions. Otherwise, Kiev's haggling over nuclear weapons, which has been so expressly encouraged by the United States, may lead to absolutely unpredictable consequences.

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian defense minister's reciprocal visit to Washington did not allay Russia's concerns in this regard. On 27 July, Colonel General Konstantin Morozov signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Les Aspin and at the same time he unequivocally backed the U.S. defense secretary's stance, calling it "a step toward the realization that Ukraine's national security concerns are justified."

It is worth noting that the agreement reached is the first document of its kind the United States signed with a former USSR republic. What consequences may follow from the emerging American-Ukrainian rapprochement and what made it possible? Remarkably, the memorandum, among other things, calls for setting up "a joint working group for military cooperation," which will apparently deal with the practical implementation of the American secretary's proposal.

Meanwhile, the U.S. insistent desire effectively to gain control over the process of standing down a part of the former USSR's strategic nuclear forces from alert status and dismantling them has not been necessitated even by its own security concerns, although this factor is present in the U.S. stance. What has come to the fore is the intense desire to exploit an opportunity coming its way to gain direct access to one of the most carefully protected secrets of the once mighty superpower, whose legal successor Russia has become. Evidently, Les Aspin's disarmament initiative was not born by chance, nor did it materialize from nothing. It was preceded by a painstaking analysis of the entire spectrum of Russian-Ukrainian relations, which are scrutinized in the United States by a whole slew of rather peculiar organizations apart from the State Department. They include the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)—the chief military intelligence service. Among its numerous functions is a priority one: to obtain and to systematize information on military equipment and armaments of potential enemies. In particular, the DIA's secret agents in Kiev are doing their utmost to "support" Ukrainian politicians who insist on splitting the Black Sea Fleet; that is on its effective destruction.

The proposals articulated by the U.S. defense secretary in Kiev some time ago are nothing less than an integral part of a plan for gaining access to Russia's nuclear secrets, which has been drawn up by the DIA's intelligence programs department jointly with the CIA's department for military problems. As a matter of fact, the implementation of operations of this scale and significance would have been impossible without their being considered beforehand by the U.S. National Security Council and subsequently approved personally by President Clinton.

The Ukrainian political leadership's lack of professionalism with regard to military matters is understandable. What is less explicable is the willingness of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's top chiefs to create favorable conditions for the unimpeded activity by American spies, who under the guise of "international disarmament experts" are ready to proceed with carrying out the requisite operations. Of all people, Konstantin Morozov, who graduated from the General Staff's Military Academy in

Moscow, should have realized what is behind the Americans' dubious initiative. It is no secret that ICBM's that are subject to elimination in Ukraine belong to missile types that will continue to make up the bulk of the Russian Federation's strategic nuclear forces. If Ukraine fails to adjust its stance, and American servicemen, contrary to earlier agreements, take part in the dismantlement and storage of the nuclear warheads, the United States will be capable of gaining access to crucial information. For instance, the Americans may find out: cone;

—impact and strength characteristics of the warhead and nose cone;

—mass and dimensional characteristics, and also design and structural features of the nuclear warhead;

—TNT equivalent of the nuclear charge and time intervals of its life cycle;

—content and principles of flight specifications;

—principles of operation and specification characteristics of warheads' individual guidance systems;

—availability, composition, and principles of operation of external sensors that detonate the warhead at the requisite altitude or at the given depth;

—composition and operational features of devices designed to enable warheads to penetrate air-defense and ABM systems, and so forth.

Building on the data obtained, the United States will be able to upgrade its air-defense and ABM systems (the latter including space-based elements) to a point where in the event of unleashing a war against the Russian Federation, the aggregate capacity of Russia's nuclear counterstrike will fall short of a level unacceptable to the aggressor; that is the threat of ineluctable retaliation will simply cease to exist for the latter. In this event, Russia will simply be not be taken into consideration, which will definitively wreck strategic stability in the world, undermine the foundation of Russia's national security, dash the efforts of several generations of our scientists and servicemen to create a nuclear missile shield.

Hence, this evidently necessitates an adequate response to the stated intentions and practical steps of the Ukraine leadership aimed at illegally retaining the status of a nuclear power while at the same time allowing the U.S. secret services access to the realm of Russian nuclear secrets. These actions are at odds with Ukraine's obligations with regard to international law and are hardly in line with the principles of good-neighborliness. I think Moscow will find sufficient arguments to press this home to Kiev.

Deputy Minister Concerned Over Missiles in Ukraine

LD2708170293 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1430 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The Russian Government is concerned about the fact that nuclear arms negotiations with Ukraine are prolonged. On the basis of the START treaties, Ukraine should deliver its nuclear arms to Russia to be destroyed. So far, no agreement on the delivery has been achieved. The Russian deputy foreign minister, who is visiting Helsinki, thinks that it is obvious that Ukraine is aiming to get its own nuclear weapon. Jukka Palmen reporting. [passage omitted]

[Palmen] The deterioration of the relations between Russia and Ukraine has given a new reason for the Moscow leadership to worry. According to the START Treaty, Ukraine should deliver its nuclear arms to Russia to be destroyed. Despite prolonged negotiations, no agreement on the matter has been reached. Ukraine thinks that the compensation offered to it for moving the arms is too small and the country has not been given the security guarantees it wants either.

According to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov, it is difficult to understand the viewpoints of Ukraine. Berdennikov says that Russia has offered hard currency for the nuclear warheads or, alternatively, to change them into fuel for nuclear power stations. However, this has not suited Ukraine. Berdennikov believes that Ukraine's willingness to keep the nuclear weapons is mainly the result of domestic reasons.

[Begin Berdennikov recording in English] It is from our point of view it is connected with some political forces (?there) in, maybe in parliament—very nationalistic forces, what is allowed to the Russians should be allowed to the Ukrainians. [end recording] [passage omitted]

There are about 1,800 different kinds of nuclear warheads in the area of Ukraine. Deputy Foreign Minister Berdennikov says that he is not very concerned about the long-range nuclear missiles, of which there are about 200 in Ukraine. According to Berdennikov, Ukraine is not able to service them, so the practical value of them is constantly diminishing. The missiles are also subordinate to the command system of the CIS Armed Forces and it would be technically very difficult for Ukraine to leave it. The Russian deputy foreign minister says that he is more concerned about the cruise missiles which can be launched from airplanes and of which there are about 600 in Ukraine.

According to Berdennikov, Ukraine has started to break the codes of the missiles to get them under their control. However, according to the Russian view, Ukraine is not yet able to use nuclear weapons even if it wished to do so.

[Begin Berdennikov recording in English] Theoretically, possibility is there, but it is not an immediate thing; it will take some time. [end recording]

Yeltsin Aide Rejects Idea of Slav 'Big Brother' Role

PM2708125593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Is the 'Slav Card' Being Played?"]

[Text] Russian President B. Yeltsin's visit to three former communist bloc states—Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia—is attracting people's attention, according to VOA reports.

Several observers indicate that Russia is now actively trying to lead the Slav world, pointing primarily to its attempts to set up closer economic ties with Ukraine and Belarus, and now with the three Slav states of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Here is the opinion of the president's press service leader:

"Ties with those republics which in the past were part of the Soviet Union are so close and natural that a process of greater integration will definitely occur and gather momentum. But there is no question of reviving the Soviet Union in a new form and creating a 'big brother.' The same applies to the Slav countries of East Europe which in the past were in the socialist camp, or if you like the socialist concentration camp. We are talking about normal cooperation with and normal interest in one other."

Yeltsin Visits to Prague, Bratislava Assessed

PM3008111193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "B. Yeltsin's Brief Visit to Prague and Bratislava Is Over. It Drew Line Under 25-Year-Old Grievances"]

[Excerpts] Prague—After his official visit to Poland 26 August, filled with business and official events as well as those targeted on national consciousness, President Yeltsin paid lightning visits to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It was the briefness of the Russian president's visit to the capitals of the two Slav states rather than the nature of it—whether it was a working or an official visit—that caused some irritation.

Doubts were voiced as to whether such an extremely important document as a Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation with Russia should be signed in a hurry. It does, after all, lay the legal foundations for cooperation between the partners for a long time to come and this event should ensure the appropriate procedure. It was only on the evening of 25 August that this problem was removed. Czech Prime Minister V. Klaus told local television that the government had decided to sign the treaty since "nothing better can be done in the remaining time." Bratislava evidently thought the same. The result was that B. Yeltsin, who spent a few hours in each capital, held talks with the leaders of the Czech Republic and Slovakia and signed both treaties. [passage omitted] These treaties have been signed by the sides to cover a 10-year period. The 6 May 1970 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and Czechoslovakia ceases to exist as soon as they come into force.

During B. Yeltsin's visit to Prague and Bratislava journalists' attention was drawn to the warm reception that he was afforded by the leaders of both states, B. Yeltsin's drive in his vast limousine through the narrow streets of Prague and Bratislava, the greetings and amiability of both capitals' residents, and also the Czech side's endeavor to "lure" the Russian president to the scene where 15 Czechoslovak citizens died in 1968 outside Radio House. This spot is considered symbolic and a memorial plaque has been erected on the radio building. History experts here say that a Soviet Army vehicle carrying shells exploded on this spot killing the Czechoslovak citizens. Laying flowers at the plaque would signify repentance for the trouble to this country that neither B. Yeltsin nor democratic Russia caused. It proved possible to avoid this awkward situation.

Visit to Poland Viewed

PM2708134193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Tretyakov: "We Will Have to Wait For a 'Breakthrough'"]

[Excerpt] Warsaw—[passage omitted] At a press conference here the two presidents rated highly the work they had done and stressed the great importance of the development of Russian-Polish cooperation on the basis of equality, partnership, and mutual advantage. Although L. Walesa did say that if the accords signed during his visit to our country a year ago and the present accords were implemented by even 50 percent it would lead to a considerable improvement in the well-being of the two countries' peoples.

It is difficult not to agree with the Polish leader. What is the picture in the meantime? The two countries' presidents meet, do some hard work, sign a series of documents, and then...all quiet again. No wonder the Polish press wrote that practically nothing has changed in our relations since L. Walesa's visit to Moscow last year. Remember that in the days of the USSR our trade turnover with Poland reached $14 billion. Now it has fallen to $3 billion.

The Polish side reckons that the unresolved question of mutual debts is the main impediment to the organization of economic links. Unfortunately, the problem was not resolved during this visit, nor was an agreement signed on the protection of cemeteries and memorials on the territory of both countries.

It is probably no secret that our president, like every Soviet leader before him, loves giving gifts to foreign leaders. On this occasion Boris Nikolayevich brought to

Poland a large number of what he called archive documents of the so-called "Suslov commission." The commission's job was to analyze the situation in Poland during the 1980-81 events and it was to submit its studies on this matter to the top Soviet leadership.

Many Poles never cease to be surprised at the casual way our Russian side makes archive documents of state significance public. According to them, states like the United States and Britain, which we are now being urged to emulate us, do not admit anyone to their archives, since they are aware that the most valuable thing in the world is information, particularly secret information. But we have now flung open the doors to our archives, offering documents marked "Top Secret" to all interested parties. Moreover, life shows that no one is in a hurry to reciprocate.

Analyzing B. Yeltsin's unexpected decision to bring forward the visit to Poland (it is known that the visit was postponed several times and was scheduled for the end of this October—M. Tretyakov), local observers come to the conclusion that the president, following the practice of the previous Soviet leader, is trying to shore up his shaky position inside the country with the help of any kind of success in the international arena.

Analysts are now wondering whether to call Yeltsin's visit to Warsaw a "breakthrough" in Russian-Polish relations or an "important stage" in them.

S. Stankevich, the Russian Federation president's political adviser, who for some reason was not included in the delegation although he deals with Poland, said in an interview for the Polish news agency PAP before the visit that, during the preparations for it, "no significant progress was achieved on some fundamental matters." According to the adviser, the visit will not be a breakthrough, but it will be an important stage in Russian-Polish relations.

So if the adviser is right, we are going to have to wait for a "breakthrough" in Russian-Polish relations. Both we and the Poles.

Grachev Signs Defense Agreement With Slovakia

LD2808132893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0345 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, defense minister for the Russian Federation, and his Slovak colleague Imrich Andrejcak have signed the Russian-Slovak agreement on military and technical cooperation. The document was presented during Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Bratislava. In accordance with this agreement, Russia will supply Slovakia with combat equipment, armaments, and spare parts.

Kunadze Begins Consultations in Tokyo

LD2708115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo, August 27 (TASS)—Two-day Russian-Japanese consultations on the level of deputy ministers of foreign affairs started here today. Participants in the consultations will discuss the forthcoming visit of President Yeltsin to Tokyo. The meeting is the first official contact between the two countries after the formation of a new coalition government in Japan, which replaced the monopoly rule of the Liberal Democratic Party, which lasted for 38 years.

According to the ITAR-TASS information, the consultations, which are being attended by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Fukuda, will cover a wide range of issues dealing with international and bilateral relations. The attention, however, will be focused on various aspects of preparations for the visit of President Yeltsin to Japan, tentatively scheduled for mid-October. Participants in the consultations are expected to discuss the date and programme of the visit, as well as the documents to be signed. During his stay in Tokyo Kunadze plans to meet Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata.

According to reliable sources, the Japanese side is going to express support for the Russian reform during the consultations. At the same time, Tokyo would like to find out more about Moscow's stand with regard to the territorial problem existing between the two countries and to the peace treaty. Sources at the Japanese Foreign Ministry believe that now there are no prospects for a quick solution of a long dispute over the Kuril Islands. They believe, however, that the forthcoming visit of the Russian leader will help outline ways to the settlement of that problem.

Responding to questions of journalists at the Narita airport of Tokyo today, Kunadze stressed that Russia's stand with regard to Japan had not changed. Thus, Japanese observers believe, he confirmed Moscow's readiness to discuss any problems, including the territorial one.

Japanese Spokesman Cited

LD2808110993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo August 28 TASS—Tokyo is satisfied with the results of the two-day Russian-Japanese consultations at the level of deputy foreign ministers which ended on Saturday [28 August], the Japanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman told a briefing here today.

Asked by ITAR-TASS to single out a positive element of the consultations, the spokesman said that they enabled the two sides to exchange opinions on the urgent issues of bilateral relations, "including the most clouded question—a visit by the Russian president to Japan".

The spokesman noted that the sides exchanged opinions on the content of some documents which are planned to be signed during the expected visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Japan in mid- October. No specific decions were taken concerning the visit's programme. This task even was not put forth for the sides on the eve of the consultations, the spokesman continued.

He said that Tokyo would seek to bring clarity to the question of the Russian president's visit before the Russian and Japanese foreign ministers meet in New York late in September.

He added that the sides reached a preliminary understanding on holding a tripartite seminar in Tokyo in December on ensuring security in the Asia-Pacific region with the participation of experts from Russia, the United States and Japan. It is planned to compile a report on the results of the seminar with specific proposals on cooperation between the three states in ensuring regional secrity and to submit it to the Russian, U.S. and Japanese Governments.

Kunadze: Islands Not Discussed

LD2808194393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1901 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo August 28 TASS—"Neither now, nor earlier has Moscow pursued talks with Tokyo on transferring any islands to Japan," Georgiy Kunadze, Russian deputy foreign minister told ITAR-TASS on concluding two-day Russo-Japanese consultations at the level of deputy foreign ministers in Tokyo on Saturday [28 August].

Kunadze expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks. According to him, the talks were of businesslike character and, to a considerable extent, were devoted to preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Japanese visit.

At the consultations the Russian side confirmed the Russian president's intention to visit Japan, the Russian diplomat said. Issues were discussed related to the visit. But no specific decisions on the visit were made.

"It is too early to talk about it so far, since the president himself takes decisions on the visit," noted the deputy minister. Earlier the visit of the head of the Russian state was scheduled preliminary for mid-October.

According to Georgiy Kunadze, the territorial issue as well was discussed at the talks within the frameworks of "the general context of the Russo-Japanese relations". "We do not discuss the issue of transfer of any islands with the Japanese side. The problem is that our countries do not have a peace treaty we are going to sign. Sooner or later the treaty will be signed, and while signing it the problem of the border division between the two countries will find its solution," noted the Russian deputy foreign minister, when characterizing the Russian delegation's stand at the consultations.

Kunadze added that a wide range of issues of bilateral relations and international problems were also discussed at the Tokyo consultations. In part, the sides exchanged views of the problems of implementation of programmes announced by Japan earlier to assist Russia in conducting reforms.

Sakhalin Region Official Urges Investment

LD2708203993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2014 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—"The problem of the Kuril Islands exists, but it should be resolved only after the living standards of Russians living on the Kuril Islands reach the living standards of the Japanese population," Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, head of the administration of the Sakhalin region, said on Friday [27 August], addressing a session of the Presidium of the Russian parliament.

Describing the socio-economic situation of the region, Krasnoyarov said that the Russian Finance Ministry owes the region 30 billion rubles to be paid out of the state budget. As a result of this "non-constructive" policy, industrial and housing construction on the island has been brought to a standstill, and no investments are made in the industry, Krasnoyarov said.

He pointed out that the situation on Sakhalin is typical of Russian regions, adding that "the people are tired of anarchy, which deals a fivefold blow to the province."

The Russian parliament has adopted a resolution "on urgent measures to support socio-economic development in the Sakhalin region."

Links Dispute to Living Standards

OW2808020493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0138 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 28 KYODO—The governor of Sakhalin said Friday [27 August] that a Japan-Russia territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands cannot be resolved until the living standards of Russians on the islands equal those in Japan.

The governor, Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, who has jurisdiction over the four disputed islands off Hokkaido—Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group of islets—made the comment to a session of the Russian parliament in Moscow.

He said it will take 50 or 100 years for the Russian islanders' living standards to match those of Japan.

Krasnoyarov insisted that until the living standards rise to the level of Japan, Russia should not negotiate the territorial issue over the four islands with Japan.

The Russian parliament adopted a resolution on urgent measures to support socioeconomic development in the Sakhalin region.

Fedorov: Most in Cabinet Oppose Returning Kurils

OW2808033293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0236 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 28 KYODO—A majority of Russian cabinet ministers oppose the return of four Russian-held islands claimed by Japan, Deputy Economic Minister Valentin Fedorov said Friday [26 August].

Fedorov, former governor of Sakhalin in the Russian Far East, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, "an overwhelming majority of cabinet ministers have taken a stance to refuse the return of the islands to Japan."

He said Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin showed he "correctly understands that the Kuril Islands are ours" in a speech he made during a visit to the Russian Far East.

Chernomyrdin said in the speech on August 17, "We are not discussing this subject with anyone. This land is ours. Our people live here."

Fedorov, who is in charge of the development of the Kurils, is known as a staunch opponent to the return to Japan of the disputed islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group of islets located east of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

He said only a minority of the cabinet ministers think Russia should hand Japan the four Moscow-held islands, which were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Fedorov said the Russian Government will soon formally endorse a plan for the economic development of the Kurils, and it is a precondition of the project that it will not return the islands.

The interview followed Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze's meetings Friday with his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Fukuda and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata in Tokyo.

Fukuda indicated to Kunadze that the 1956 Japan-Soviet Pact is a starting point to resolve the issue.

The pact, signed by then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and Japanese Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama, spoke of the return of the Habomais and Shikotan once a bilateral peace treaty was concluded.

The meeting between the deputy foreign ministers was held prior to a projected mid-October visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Joint Oil, Gas Development off Sakhalin

LD3008114593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Russia and Japan intend to jointly develop oil and gas deposits in the shelf of the Far Eastern island of Sakhalin. A symposium has been held in the island's administrative center, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, with 150 specialists from both countries taking part. According to participants, a petrochemical research center should be opened in Sakhalin which will provide for combining fundamental research by Russian scientists and the latest Japanese technology for the procession of raw materials.

Commission Reports on Investigation Into KAL Disaster

LD3008100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0825 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug—Sergey Filatov, the Russian president's administration chief, today reported on the results of the investigation by the state commission set up by a decree of Boris Yeltsin into the tragic incident involving the South Korean "Korean Airlines" Boeing-747 flight KAL-007 from Anchorage to Seoul. This tragedy, which happened on 1 September 1983, claimed 269 victims.

The Russian president, the country's leadership, and the members of the state commission "again express their profound sympathy and condolences with the families of those who died," Sergey Filatov said. This tragedy, he pointed out, inflicted no little damage on international relations, due mainly to the absence of the whole truth and reliable information about the incident involving the South Korean aircraft near the island of Sakhalin.

Sergey Filatov reported that a monument in memory of the victims will be laid and religious rites of various confessions will be performed for them on 1 September 1993 on Sakhalin island in the area of the town of Nevelsk in connection with the 10th anniversary of the tragedy.

Reporting the results of the state commission's investigation into the causes of the tragedy, the administration head said the state commission ascertained that the cause of the tragedy was "a significant lateral deviation by the Boeing-747 from its flight path." The second cause was the USSR air defense forces' conviction that its airspace was being deliberately penetrated by a military aircraft. "In view of these circumstances, it was the rules for intercepting a military aircraft which the air defense forces followed," he said.

Sergey Filatov stressed that the above conclusions drawn by the Russian state commission correspond to those reached by the international commission of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO]

He went on: "On the one hand, the investigation's objective results do not confirm the widely publicized declaration by U.S. President Reagan that the Soviets knew that they were using arms against a passenger airliner, while, on the other hand, they do not confirm the counterclaim by the former Soviet leadership that the Boeing 747 airliner was performing an extremely risky mission for the U.S. intelligence services." The results of the state commission's work indicate that one can confidently assert that the tragedy was "a consequence of a total chain of errors and coincidences, and not of premeditated cruel schemes," the head of the Russian president's administration stressed. He commented: Ten years on, the time has come to draw the conclusions from what happened. In order to prevent similar tragedies, the world community has called on all states to ratify as soon as possible the amendment to the ICAO's Chicago Convention, which specifies that states have an obligation to refrain from the use of arms against civil aircraft. Russia ratified that amendment in 1991.

Sergey Filatov recalled that the ICAO drew up a second manual on the hijacking of civil aircraft on the basis of material on the South Korean airliner incident on 1 September 1983, and also after an investigation into a similar case of an Iranian civil aircraft which was destroyed by U.S. armed forces in 1988. It also drew up special recommendations on safety measures taken in connection with military activity of potential danger for civil aircraft flights.

Substantial improvements in communications, navigation, and the observation of flight practice in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean were introduced after 1983. A special voice link was established between Anchorage, Khabarovsk, and Tokyo after a trilateral memorandum on mutual understanding between Japan, the USSR, and the United States was signed in 1985, the president's administration chief noted.

'Violations' by Airliner

LD3008124793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—"The South Korean Boeing-747 deviating from its course by 350 miles was not the only mistake, but a consequence of a number of violations of aircraft navigation," says a conclusion made by a state commission set up by the decree of the Russian president in 1992. The conclusion was read out by Rudolf Teymurazov, chairman of the Russian commission for safety of flights from the CIS Interstate Aviation Committee.

Teymurazov pointed out that "the Boeing-747" had been followed by the former Soviet air defence troops for four hours, but failed to respond to repeated signals warning it about the violation of the former Soviet air space.

Chairman of the Interstate Aviation Committee Tatyana Anodina informed journalists that in accordance with an instruction in effect in 1983, a territory around the Sakhalin Island was marked on international charts as a closed area from which the launching of Soviet rockets was carried out. Therefore, it was envisaged that fire was to be opened at trespassers of air space in this region without warning.

Asked by journalists how members of the Russian state commission for investigation into the causes of the accident can account for the inadequate conduct of the experienced crew of the Boeing-747, Anodina supposed that both the chief pilot and other pilots might have been exhausted by the continues [as received] flight and the growing darkness. It was noted at the news conference that tape recordings of conversations between the members of the crew showed that they were not aware of the critical danger of the situation and spoke on other subjects.

To the present day experts wonder why the commander of the plane, who made 80 flights on the air route from Anchorage to Seoul, failed to take the plane far enough to land it on the ground. Experts believe that the thermal rocket, which hit the plane in the rear, merely restricted but not destroyed the control system of the plane altogether. Flying at low altitudes the plane could reach far enough to make a landing. Experts pointed out that the answer to the question why the plane was not prevented from falling into the ocean had been carried by the crew "to their graves."

Head of the president's administration Sergey Filatov declared that the state commission of the Russian federation was not authorized to consider a question of paying compensation following the death of the crew and passengers of the Boeing. Pointing out that conclusions made by the Russian commission coincide with those of an investigation conducted by experts of five member states of the International Civic Aviation Organization, Filatov, on behalf of the Russian president, expressed the hope that an independent objective investigation into the causes of the Boeing crash would help improve relations between Russia, South Korea, Japan, the United States and other countries, whose citizens became victims of the accident ten years ago.

ROK Diplomat Comments

SK3008101293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0953 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 30 (YONHAP)—The Russian Government claimed on Monday Russia was not to be blamed for the downing of a South Korean passenger plane over Sakhalin 10 years ago in 1983.

"The shooting down of the KAL [Korean Air Lines] plane by a fighter plane of the former Soviet Union was an act of self- defense," said Sergey Filatov, chief of the office of presidential administration.

Filatov made the remarks in announcing at a press conference the outcome of Russia's own probe into the KAL incident. He headed a committee that made the investigation.

In a brief prepared announcement, Filatov said that under the then circumstances, "the shooting down was an unavoidable and lawful act."

Filatov asserted that there were much errors on the part of the KAL flight crew.

He said the KAL crew did not review the mistaken information fed into flight computer since they took off from Anchorage and failed to make any response toward warning shots fired by a Soviet fighter.

"The KAL plane grossly violated international law by intruding into the Soviet airspace and even a flight-prohibition zone," he said.

Unlike their past posture, Russia displayed a hardline stance defending thus the shooting down of the civil plane itself.

Asked about Russia's possible compensation for the downing of the civil plane, Filatov said, "the issue of any compensation does not fall on the business of my committee."

Meanwhile, an official of the South Korean Embassy in Moscow said that the shooting down of the civil plane was an express violation of international law and Russia therefore is liable to pay compensation.

The South Korean official noted that a report of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the KAL incident has pointed to the failure of the Soviets to make enough efforts to determine whether the object was a civil plane.

Shokhin Discusses Possible Arms Deal With South Korea

LD2808110393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Andrey Chekalov]

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—"There is nothing reprehensible in our proposals to the South Korean leaders to buy Russian weapons, since we offered only defensive types of arms," Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin said at a news conference on Friday [27 August].

"This would enable us to solve several issues: firstly, to arm the South Korean army with very efficient types of defensive weapons and, secondly, to resolve our own financial problems, including debts," he added. Shokhin stressed that this deal should not upset the balance in north-east Asia and in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the vice-premier's opinion, it is not easy to reply to these questions at once, "since South Korea has a close political ally—the United States, and it is difficult evidently for the South Korean leaders to take such decisions without consultations with the U.S.".

Shokhin told journalists about Russia's participation in the Expo-93 world exhibition which was held in South Korea. He expressed opinion that high technologies exhibited by the Russian side at the show, indicate that Russia "is still a great power".

South Korean MP's, Businessmen Visit Vladivostok

LD2708082693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0607 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniya Lents]

[Text] Vladivostok August 27 TASS—A delegation of business people and members of South Korean parliament arrived in Vladivostok led by Chairman of the Association of Korean-Russian Far Eastern Cooperation Chang Chi-hyon.

During a four-day visit, the guests will meet the leaders of the territorial administration and discuss prospects for further cooperation. They will consider joint projects, including the opening of a new airline "Vladivostok Seoul" at the end of this year with the help of the Korea Airlines (KAL).

Agrarian experts of South Korea's major corporation Kohab are due to visit the Ussuri Agricultural Research Centre and one of the rural areas of the territory where South Korean grain growing technology is to be used.

Military Issues

Moscow's ABM Defense System Described

PM2608145993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1,6

[Viktor Litovkin article: "Underground Missile 'Company' Protects Capital Around-the-Clock. IZVESTIYA Describes Moscow's ABM Defense System for First Time"]

[Excerpt] In Sofrino near Moscow, a few kilometers from the church of Boyar Saltykov's household there is a gigantic structure in the forest surrounded by barbed wire, a structure about the height of a seven-story apartment block, very similar to a truncated Cheops pyramid. Mushroom pickers and dacha owners, who stumble across it and signs bearing the menacing inscription "Stop! No Entry! Prohibited Area" try to get away from this dangerous spot as quickly as possible, speculating as to what it might be....

Only a very small number of people know for sure that this is the Moscow ABM defense system's engagement [strelbovaya] radar. Today we talk about ABM defense under the rubric "Russia's New Weapon."

Our press has never before given details of it. However, the American Tom Gervasi in the book *Soviet Military Power* published by the Pentagon in 1989 wrote:

"The Soviet Union has begun to update and modernize the ABM defense system around Moscow since 1978. This single-layer system incorporated 16 (originally 64) Galosh reloadable surface launchers and Dog House and Cat House battle management radars south of Moscow. The four launch complexes comprise tracking and guidance radars and four exo-atmosphere interceptors (ground-launched nuclear-tipped missiles designed to intercept the enemy's missiles before they enter the earth's atmosphere).

"The new ABM defense system around Moscow will be a two-layer system, comprising sophisticated long-range silo-housed Galosh antimissile missiles, silo-launched high-acceleration [bystrostartuyushchiy] exo-atmosphere Gazelle missile interceptors—probably nuclear-tipped—(designed to hit targets in the atmosphere), guidance, fire control, and battle management radars, including a new large phased array radar oriented in four directions in the city of Pushkino north of Moscow..."

Anatoliy Basistov, general designer of the Moscow ABM defense system, would not comment on this information. He merely said that his brainchild is totally in line with the USSR-U.S. ABM Treaty concluded in 1972 and protects the capital for sure from a group of ballistic missiles and their nuclear warheads [boyevyye bloki] that may come in its direction.

"The system will not allow a single nuclear explosion dangerously close to Moscow," Anatoliy Georgiyevich said. "It has been designed to automatically detect warheads in flight without human involvement, distinguish them from clutter—decoys or combined ABM countermeasures—and destroy them unerringly in the air, preventing the charge from detonating..."

What does the capital's ABM defense system comprise?

The engagement radar with which we began our description and which you can see on the photograph. Its chief designer was Doctor of Technical Sciences Professor Viktor Sloka (this is the first time that IZVESTIYA readers have been introduced to him and to Anatoliy Basistov). The "pyramid" oriented to the four corners of the globe with antennas 16 meters in diameter is perhaps one of the main components in the system. It is this pyramid that is designed to detect and intercept ballistic missiles, track them, and guide antimissile missiles to their targets.

The radar was developed in the late eighties. Officer crews are on around-the-clock alert duty there. But their task, Basistov told me, is only to supervise the radar's work and perform routine maintenance. The "pyramid" is fully automated and is even able itself to replace unserviceable instruments and assemblies with reserves.

The radar is serviced by a highly productive computer (around a billion operations per second). It enables the "space wars" algorithm to be tracked in real time, that is second by second, at the same time as events are happening. And the radar building contains radioelectronic equipment, powerful refrigeration and ventilation units that maintain a set temperature, an autonomous electric power grid, and other technological systems, the specialists say.

The missiles are of course the most important component of ABM defense; that is, the Galoshs and Gazelles that Tom Gervasi mentioned. But they have a quite definite technical classification. The former—its chief designer was Lev Lyulyev of the Yekaterinburg "Novator" MKB [expansion unknown; "kb" element can mean design bureau], who has now been replaced by Pavel Kamnev—for exoatmosphere interception and the latter for combat in the upper atmosphere, developed by Academician Petr Grushin from Khimki's "Fakel" MKB. The latter is now led by Vladimir Svetlov (IZVESTIYA, No. 104).

"Fakel's" first antimissile missile, the V-1000, destroyed a ballistic missile warhead 4 March 1961 and, as Khrushchev said, hit it "right between the eyes." [quotation marks as published] The Americans only did that 13 years later. That missile had an average speed of 1,000 meters per second, that is three times' the speed of sound.

Today's missiles fly 10 times' the speed of sound. And that is not the limit for them.

I saw the "Gazelle." Admittedly, we were not allowed to photograph it. It was said to be secret. Although I simply could not see what was special about its external appearance: A missile is a missile, only without "wings" [krylyshki] and stabilizing fins [rul-stabilizator]. I was told that, apart from being superfast, it is also very smart and can... I cannot repeat that here—it is a secret.

But I also have a question. Over the last 10 years the Americans have been keeping a very careful eye from space on the tests of this missile at the Sary-Shagan test range and on Lake Balkhash. They are evidently familiar not only with its external appearance, but also with its parameters, albeit approximate. But we are still not allowed to know about this.

But it is no secret that there are no more than 100 of Lyulyev's and Grushin's missiles on alert (the number is limited by the ABM Treaty) and they are within 150km of the center of Moscow in underground silos. The launch silos were developed under the leadership of Academician Vladimir Barmin, who died recently.

The antimissile missile silos are not camouflaged—camouflage is also prohibited by the treaty. But they are protected quite securely from a direct hit and from terrorists. What is more, they are guarded carefully. I do not advise you to get within firing range of them—it is dangerous.

In addition to the launchers the ABM defense system must undoubtedly logically include ballistic missile early warning systems although they are officially separate. The reader probably knows what I am talking about—the well-known phased array radars in outlying regions of the former USSR. Pechora in the north, Skrunda and Beregovo in the west, Nikolayev, Mingechaur, and Balkhash in the south, Primorye in the east... And of course artificial earth satellites—radiotechnical, optical, electronic reconnaissance, communications, and information satellites...

In conjunction with the command post and the high-speed, highly productive automatic control systems they form a full ABM defense complex, which even today, at a time of profound crisis for the country and the army, helps us feel fairly calm. [passage omitted]

Strategic Missile Troops Foil Attempt To Penetrate Base

LD3008100693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correpsondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug—An attempt to break into a guarded site [okhranyayemyy ob'yekt] was averted by the servicemen of one of the strategic missile units. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today in the press group of Strategic Missile Troops, unidentified people who approached the site in a car attempted to cross the outer barrier. They did not respond to the sentry's challenge. The intruders were stopped only when warning shots were fired. They were all detained and handed over to internal affairs staff.

Kokoshin Explains Shift in Defense Equipment Procurement

PM3008095993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 7

[Interview with First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin by Sergey Ovsiyenko; place and date not given: "Andrey Kokoshin: 'We Are Moving Away From Blanket Research Into Constantly Updating Weapons Prototypes"]

[Text] [Ovsiyenko] Andrey Afanasyevich! How, in conditions of falling production, a sharp drop in military orders, and a loss of control of the defense industry, is it possible to supply the Army with normal levels of weapons and military hardware?

[Kokoshin] To do this we must intervene vigorously in the sphere of industrial policy. The state defense order is becoming a vehicle for our interests. At the present time all our expenditure on weapons and hardware goes through the Ministry of Defense. Admittedly, the financing of nuclear weapons development is still the responsibility of the Ministry of Atomic Energy, but I am sure this will change in the near future. Our ministry has specified a group of defense industry enterprises that will deal with military orders. There are approximately 200 of them.

[Ovsiyenko] Russia's participation in the Abu Dhabi arms exhibition and the holding of a whole range of exercises and demonstrations of the hardware involved shows that the Russian Army is selecting the most reliable and promising military hardware for its own use. What ideas are you incorporating into the armament program?

[Kokoshin] We rely on keeping our troops supplied with weapons that have proved their worth. Our second idea is to streamline the range of hardware we issue. For example, there will now be just one model of tank in the Ground Forces. This promises to be a colossal gain in terms of maintenance and maintenance costs. We are moving away from blanket research into constantly updating weapons prototypes, favoring weapons modernization instead. Not everything is that simple, however: certain types of hardware are not designed to be improved. In selecting hardware, we pay particular attention to its operational costs. Nobody used to take this into account at all and it did not represent a real part of the combat hardware's cost. It was frequently the case that cheap and fairly powerful weapons turned out to be difficult to operate, which sharply decreased their combat readiness.

We must make difficult decisions. We have a "Msta" self-propelled artillery mount which is manufactured at two plants—in Yekaterinburg and Sterlitamak. If the

entire self-propelled artillery mount manufacturing order is again divided between these enterprises, meeting this order will put them both in a disadvantageous position. A decision has been made to transfer the entire order to the enterprise which has its own design bureau. I know the directors of the Sterlitamak plant and the authorities in Bashkortostan are mad at me. But in this case our interests dictate that we concentrate "Msta" production in Yekaterinburg. As far as aviation is concerned, here too we are faced with a choice as to which aircraft we should give preference. Our industry produces everything from light fighters to heavy bombers. Right now we cannot manage such a wide range of aircraft owing to our economic difficulties. The most difficult issue in our program is shipbuilding, ship repairs, and infrastructure development. We have built up a large oceangoing fleet, but it does not possess a corresponding system of logistics bases. At best it supplies the fleet with 25 percent of its needs. Ships which could serve for another 10-15 years are therefore being decommissioned... We are ready to submit our program for arming the Russian Army to the country's president and we pledge to implement it.

Vice Admiral Surveys Navy Reform

WS2708141093 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Article by Vice Admiral Yuriy Kaysin, deputy chief of staff at the Russian Navy: "Russian Navy—Navy of a Great Power"]

[Text] Our record: Yuriy Anatolyevich Kaysin was born on 10 May 1940 in the town of Luga, in Leningrad Oblast. He graduated from the Pacific Higher Naval School named after S. O. Makarov, the Naval Academy, and the Military Academy of the General Staff at the USSR Armed Forces.

Y. Kaysin had gone through all stages of naval service until he became the commander of a strategic nuclear missile submarine. He also held the offices of the deputy commander of a formation, the chief of staff of a unit, the deputy chief of staff of the Black Sea Fleet, and the deputy chief of the Central Administration of the Navy.

Since 1991 Y. Kaysin has been the deputy chief of the Chief Staff of the Navy—the chief of the Chief Staff Administration of the Navy.

Military Reform

The Russian Naval Forces are experiencing a difficult time in their rebirth. This process gives rise to the formation of the Russian Navy, the development of new attitudes toward its role and place, and approaches toward its construction, and so on.

Under the new circumstances, the possibility of applying the Russian Navy is based on two concepts: Deterrence and cooperation in peace time and timely defense and prevention in the event of aggression against Russia and its allies. The essence of these concepts lies in the maintenance of such a Navy structure that would clearly and persuasively demonstrate to any potential aggressor that an assault on our country and its allies will result in his losses.

The Navy leadership views the sustenance of battle readiness of the naval strategic nuclear forces as one of its key goals. Even under tough budget reductions they are doing everything to satisfy the needs of these units.

Our missile submarines guard both the sea and the bases. Considering the vital changes in the international situation and the reduction of the nuclear hostility during the last three years, we have cut the number of submarines at sea practically by half. In our opinion, there is no need to keep more than half of the submarines in battle readiness at sea and in top readiness to launch missiles, as is the case with the United States, Britain, and France. We will continue the current practice of keeping the lesser half of the missile submarines on guard at sea and the other half in top battle readiness at the bases.

According to the agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States on the further reduction and limitation of strategic arms (START 2), signed on 3 January 1993, the share of Russian naval strategic nuclear forces (MSYS) in the total of its nuclear forces surges from 27.3 to more than 50 percent. This increases not only the role and responsibility of the navy for Russia's security, but also the expenses for the upkeep of its battle readiness, the development and upgrading of complexes of missile submarines for strategic purposes (RPKSN) and ballistic missiles on submarines (BRPL).

Under the START 2 agreement, the quantitative levels of BRPL military loads being nearly equal, the quality of the MSYS components (RPKSN and BRPL) and their potential possibilities acquire special importance. Unfortunately, according to these parameters, Russian missile carriers and BRPL are considerably inferior to American ones because the ships and missiles of the Russian MSYS were put in operation from five to 10 years before the American ones. Moreover, being a bilateral agreement, START 2 does not take into account the MSYS of Britain and France that will have two-thirds of the BRPL military load by 1996. However, START 2 foresees this quantity for Russia and the United States.

The upgrading and development of other types of the Russian Navy are generally oriented toward improving their combat skills and turning them into multipurpose and universal forces. The key goal—the creation of a smaller but more updated and efficient fleet—can be achieved only through these measures.

The announced reduction of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation provides for the cutback of the navy personnel by 25-30 percent in the next three years, and a considerable simplification of the organizational structure of the fleet at the cost of cutting the unnecessary organizational administrations. Regarding the advanced

groups of the forces that previously functioned on a permanent basis in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, they stopped their activities last year, and the headquarters of these squadrons were disbanded. However, our ships will occasionally work in various ocean and sea regions when participating in UN peacekeeping operations.

A 10-year program of building ships for the Navy that considers all these peculiarities has been drafted. The government has set priorities in shipbuilding. Despite the fact that our program has been abridged a little, the process of replacing outdated ships with new ones will continue, although not at the previous rate and in the previous scope.

The fleet has many serious problems that require immediate attention.

First of all, there is the issue of removing outdated nuclear submarines (PLA) from the Navy, the number of which is nearing 100. In our country, they are usually withdrawn after a fixed service period (25 years). However, this period has been recently shortened in relation with the execution of obligations by the Russian side on the reduction of the naval strategic forces, and the removal of outdated ships because the restoration of their tactical qualities is inexpedient.

The PLA removed from the Navy serve to ensure security, including nuclear security. Their key power unit is changed so that it becomes impossible to transfer it from storage to operating conditions. Stored ships are kept under control until the active zones of their reactors are unloaded. Specially trained personnel carries out this operation by applying particular technical measures and observing the rules for nuclear and radioactive security. After this the reactors of nuclear submarines cease to be the source of nuclear threat.

In 1992, the government of the Russian Federation adopted a comprehensive program for utilizing PLA. However, the lack of finances has halted its implementation, although the Navy has done everything that depends on it despite the existing difficulties.

Another no less important problem is ship repair; that is, the maintenance of the technical readiness of the fleet. With the collapse of the USSR and the rise of independent states, a number of enterprises that were used for these purposes by the Navy found themselves on the territories of Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and the Baltic countries. There were plans to use some of them (in Ukraine and the Baltics) for the repair of military ships in 1993. However, there have not yet been any agreements regulating this issue. The agreement on cooperation in ship building and repair signed in January by the Russian and Ukrainian governments requires further development.

Another problem that frequently appears in the mass media is the Black Sea Fleet and the completion of ships left at Ukraine's building enterprises, particularly the aircraft carrier "Varyag." Presently, the talks between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet are continuing. They deal with the issues of its status during the transitional period, the formation of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy on the basis of the USSR Black Sea Fleet that is under the immediate jurisdiction of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents.

It is natural that the creation of the fleets cannot be viewed in isolation from the system of their basing and material and technical supply. Given the fact that over 95 percent of the coastal structure of the Black Sea Fleet are based on the territory of the Crimea and Ukraine, a fair approach to the settlement of this issue means that some part of the Russian Black Sea Fleet must be based at the existing points, including Sevastopol. This problem, however, can be resolved in interstate negotiations.

We plan to base forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on the Russian part of the sea coast as well. However, the creation of new bases for ships, aircraft, and coastal troops of the fleet, and the system of management and material and technical supply is a long and expensive process.

As for the completion of ships, particularly the "Varyag," it should be noted that the Navy leadership sees the necessity of developing and including large aircraft carriers in the structure of the fleet. To resolve the defensive task of ensuring combat stability of the naval forces, the concept of the Navy development provides for the possession of heavy aircraft carriers supplied with fighters and helicopters. In one of his televised interviews, the Russian defense minister stressed the necessity for such ships.

Within this framework, the completion of the heavy aircraft carrier "Varyag" for the Russian Federation is one of the most significant elements of a balanced fleet development program. Considerable material and financial resources have already been spent. The suspension of its construction posed problems both for Russia and Ukraine. The completion of the "Varyag" aircraft carrier is preferable from an economic rather than a military point of view in the current situation.

We are trying to work out the best decision on this issue by considering the interests of both sides. Currently, we are conducting talks and consultations on an entire set of problems related to the completion of this aircraft carrier. The fate of this ship will be decided by Russia and Ukraine on the state level.

Finally, I will dwell on one more issue—the drafting and service on contract.

Due to the lack of draft resources, we currently have a difficult situation in manning ships and naval units with seamen and petty officers. This undoubtedly affects the battle readiness level and leads to the overwork of the existing personnel. This is a serious problem not only for the Navy but also for all Russian Armed Forces. We

intend to overcome the current incompetence of the personnel by reducing full-time staff, and by hiring people on contract.

In general, the implementation of the drafted plans and the overcoming of the current problems will allow Russia to create a Navy it deserves, that is, a Navy of a great power.

Economic Issues

Fedorov Wants 'Financial State of Emergency'

PM3008105993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Ministry of Finance Viewpoint" rubric: "Course Toward Stabilization Threatened"]

[Text] A memorandum from the minister of finance entitled "On the Critical Financial Situation and the Fate of Reforms in Russia" was examined at a closed sitting of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers.

Boris Fedorov's memorandum, which was sent to the government members 20 August, says: "A critical situation has taken shape in respect of the financial and economic stabilization policy. The future of reforms is threatened. This is not noticeable to everyone yet, but a decision must be adopted as quickly as possible given the inevitable exacerbation of political tension. The political struggle has entirely specific boundaries caused by the state of the economy."

The memorandum goes on to state that "the country is on the threshold of elections and there are only two paths. The first is the path of the Supreme Soviet and the opposition—to give up the course toward financial stabilization, hand out credits, and inflate the budget deficit. This is the path toward the abyss. The leap in inflation and the collapse of the economy would cancel out all the political dividends earned this way even before the ballot. This scenario of the development of events has already been put into effect in Ukraine with the well-known consequences for the power structures. The second way is to sustain the course toward financial stabilization and achieve a real fall in inflation. Only a fall in inflation can show the electorate the real successes of the reforms. Only a fall in inflation can guarantee a revival of investments and a way out of the crisis."

B. Fedorov states that the government tried to pursue the second policy option in the first half of 1993. "This policy received international support, and a package of financial aid to Russia was adopted at the meeting in Tokyo in July 1993. However, the situation changed sharply in July-August 1993. Under pressure from the opposition and individual government members, a clear departure from the course toward stabilization was observed," the minister of finance notes.

B. Fedorov goes on to make his own proposals for a way out of the situation that has taken shape: "In the prevailing situation it is necessary to make a political choice: either a fight against inflation and a tough stabilization policy or a change in course, the rejection of international support, and isolation.

"In the event of the first option being chosen, the declaration of a financial state of emergency is proposed, which presupposes:

"—the adoption without the Supreme Soviet of an emergency budget (a number of measures) for the period until the end of the year, during which new sources of income will be introduced and unjustified expenditure cut. Such a budget cannot be adopted by consensus, and a political decision is needed;

"—the unconditional commitment not to accept any new expenditure, at least until the end of the year; any decisions on allocating financial resources should specify sources;

"—within the framework of the financial state of emergency, the transfer of the Central Bank to the authority of the government for a period of at least six months to ensure the unity of financial-credit policy;

"—the enhancement of the status of the commission for credit policy, making it a presidential commission, in order to ease pressure on the government. To concentrate within it all financial, monetary, currency, and credit questions (with the abolition of a number of other commissions);

"—raising the credit limit in the third quarter to a maximum of 40 percent and explaining our position to the IMF in order to receive full assistance."

The memorandum concludes by saying that the "government commission for credit policy (Fedorov, Chubays, Gerashchenko, Mashchits, Moskovskiy, Shapovalyants, Gaydar, Kazmin) has examined the question of the country's financial situation and adopted a decision to ask for it to be submitted to a special government sitting, and also to ask the IMF to start consultations on financial-economic policy. Until the question is discussed in principle in the government, the commission has decided not to review the question of allocating further credits."

Trade Union Federation Warns of National Strike

LD3008120793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1041 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow, 30th Aug—The Federation of Independent Trades Unions of Russia [FITUR], the country's largest trades union association, declared today that it "will not leave workers to face the most serious problems and will fight for their interests by all methods available to trades unions."

A statement adopted in reply to a recent appeal by the Presidium of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers to trades union organizations rejects charges leveled at the trades unions that they are "seeking confrontation" with the executive power. On the contrary, the statement emphasizes, the government side "virtually ignores" the work of the trilateral commission on the settlement of social and labor disputes, while the attempts of the trades unions to arrange a dialogue with the government "are not being answered".

The FITUR, the document notes, offers the government "open and public negotiations and partnership relations." However, in the event of a further drop in the standard of living of workers "the intensification of the strike movement, the concentration of economic demands and their growth into political ones, and the prospect of a Russia-wide strike, are inevitable."

Supreme Soviet

Fedorov Recommends Parliament Not Adopt Budget

LD2708125693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It was expected that issues would be hotly debated in the Russian Parliament today. At a joint session of the chambers, the deputies were to have discussed several serious legislative acts, or, to be more correct, their drafts, which the president did not sign.

[Correspondent Sergey Suntsov] Having discussed in the morning a number of draft laws remaining from the previous session—in particular, the law on the freedom of religious beliefs, returned by the president—members of parliament set about discussing the issue of the Russian budget for 1993. It is known that the president used his right of veto and returned the budget to the parliament, because of its unwieldy deficit of 26 trillion rubles.

The speech by Finance Minister Boris Fedorov evidently took into account the predilections of his audience, for it abounded with quotes from Lenin's works and Khasbulatov's outpourings [video shows smiling Khasbulatov] confirming that hyperinflation is ruinous. Fedorov said that the deficit would lead to pauperization of the people and cause the country's financial system to fall apart.

Following a lengthy period during which deputies put their questions to the minister and the latter replied, the exchange pertaining mainly to political factors, the discussion gradually turned to the budget issue itself. Boris Fedorov suggested that the budget should not be adopted and that the Government should be given a month for fine tuning.

Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of a parliamentary commission [for budget, plans, taxes, and prices], noted that the president's remarks made it possible to continue joint and constructive work on the budget. The discussion is continuing.

During the discussion of the agenda, issues concerning the conduct of Nikolay Ryabov, [video shows Ryabov gesturing] parliament, and also concerning the consequences of the damage suffered by Russia as a result of the cancellation of Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev's visit to a number of African countries were added to the agenda.

Debate on Budget Continues Without Fedorov

LD2708162693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Marina Vasilyeva; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the Russian Supreme Soviet decided to place the question of Nikolay Ryabov's activities as deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet on the session's agenda. A number of deputies called for him to be removed from his post. Ruslan Khasbulatov himself described Nikolay Ryabov today as a poor deputy chairman, but the session began with an examination of routine questions.

[Vasilyeva] Today the Russian parliament took a second look at bills which have been returned by the president. It adopted virtually all the president's proposals for amendments and additions to the law on freedom of religion, specifically the stipulation that every individual, irrespective of whether or not he is a Russian citizen, should have equal opportunity to enjoy freedom of conscience and religion.

The planned debate on the president's amendments to the mass media law did not take place. It has been postponed, probably to next Friday, because the president's representative did not turn up. But questions connected with the media still arose. Parliament decided today to ask the Constitutional Court to investigate whether the president's decree on the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company is lawful or not.

The resumed debate on the 1993 republican budget went on for a very long time today. Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, who spoke at the start of the debate, said that a deficit of 26 million rubles was unacceptable and asked for the budget debate to be postponed for a month. The finance minister simply did not turn up after the interval. So, the debate continued without him. This was why the Supreme Soviet called on Viktor Chernomyrdin to make representations to the president of Russia for Boris Fedorov's dismissal from the post of finance minister.

Parliament Suggests Yeltsin Remove Fedorov

LD2708153893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Russian parliament suggested today that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin appeal to the Russian president with a request to remove from office Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov.

On Friday morning [27 August] Fedorov spoke in parliament as a representative of the Russian president, explaining Boris Yeltsin's amendments during a second debate on the bill "on Specifying Figures of the Republican Budget of the Russian Federation for 1993."

However, after the intermission when debates on the president's amendments were to be continued, Fedorov failed to turn up. This was a formal reason why Veneamin Sokolov, chairman of the council of the republic, asked to raise the question whether the finance minister conforms to his post.

Sokolov said that it was the finance minister who brought the budgetary process to the deadlock, adding that Fedorov considers all budgetary-financial issues without taking into account the real situation in the country's economy.

No member of the parliament spoke in Fedorov's favour.

Legislator Sees 'No Political Harm' in Budget Deficit

MK2808120093 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Kastravets report under "Finances" rubric: "Deficit Is Not All That Awful"]

[Text] A joint session of the Supreme Soviet's chambers yesterday examined the Russian Federation law "On Updating the Indices of the 1993 Republican Budget" in connection with the law's having been returned by the Russian Federation president for a repeat review.

B.N. Yeltsin's letter reads: "In the law passed by the Supreme Soviet, the maximum size of the republican budget for 1993 has been increased to 22.4 trillion rubles, which is 10.5 trillion rubles more than the government proposed. Thus, the deficit increases from 30.2 to 50 percent against the volume of expenditures." The president made a number of remarks and proposals to the Supreme Soviet, and the Finance Ministry made a rather harsh statement in a press release circulated on 12 August: "The most important tool of state regulation of the economy—the budget—is being increasingly used by parliament for political ends."

Our correspondent asked Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Commission for Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, to comment on this statement.

[Pochinok] Two sides are trying to use the budget for political ends; such attempts are undoubtedly being made also in parliament, but I have always opposed such a position. Believe me, there is no political harm in the budget's being passed. A different matter is that now additional revenues should be looked for, and expenditure cut back. In this sense, the session of the Council of Ministers Presidium on 26 August was extremely constructive, and if the Supreme Soviet works in the same manner in examining government proposals, we are going to crawl out of this pit.

[Kastravets] It is quite realistic to increase revenues already in the immediate future.

[Pochinok] Yes. I do appreciate the predicament of the finance minister whom everybody is asking for money while the Supreme Soviet confirms additional expenditures. He is of course losing heart, but he should brace up and hold on. That is what the finance minister's job is about.

[Kastravets] In the opinion of Boris Fedorov, "realization of the budget passed by the Supreme Soviet would mean a soaring inflation of up to 40 to 50 percent a month," and as a consequence further price growth....

[Pochinok] This is absolutely wrong—for the simple reason that one can only spend the money the state collects in the form of revenue and takes on credit from the Central Bank. The Finance Ministry may spend as much of the revenue as can be collected; as for credits, there is a limit to granting them. If the crediting limit gets jacked up and they again start distributing money to other republics, then we would really face an inflation of this proportion. It is simpler of course to stop paying wages—then there will be no inflation. But that would be an insult. Therefore, wages will be raised anyway, and social programs implemented. There will also be inflation, but it can only be licked if the production slump is reduced.

[Kastravets] That is to say, we should not be afraid of the budget deficit per se?

[Pochinok] One should rather be afraid of specific actions that could lead to hyperinflation than of the budget deficit. Speedy measures should be taken even today to eliminate this deficit. A deficit of 20-plus trillion, without a doubt, is a formidable problem, but I think the deficit would be smaller. The government and the Supreme Soviet have no other objective more important, and if they fail to find a common language, we will be threatened with disaster. So we are obliged to find a common language. [interview ends]

The upshot of yesterday's session is: It was proposed to dismiss the finance minister.

Parliament Discusses Removing Ryabov From Post

LD2708130093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 27 Aug 93

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Today, members of the Supreme Soviet put on the session's agenda the issue of the activity of Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Several speakers called for him to be removed from his post, though this proposal has not yet been put to the vote.

At the suggestion of Deputy Sergey Baburin, it was decided to hear Nikolay Ryabov's account of his activity recently, above all, his participation in the setting up of the Federation Council as a new legitimate body for adopting the constitution. Ruslan Khasbulatov today called Nikolay Ryabov a poor deputy.

Ryabov Reports on Petrozavodsk Conference

LD2708214293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2013 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—A meeting of the Russian parliament listened tonight to a report of deputy parliament speaker Nikolay Ryabov on the Petrozavodsk conference of republican heads and his stand in the constitutional process.

The official assured the deputies he keeps to the Constitution and has always been against the creation of illegitimate bodies, claiming on powers of the authorities. He said he did not participate in the Petrozavodsk meeting of republican heads, which decided to set up the Federation Council, but just attended it.

Ryabov especially stressed he views the Federation Council as a consultative body to help the progress of constitutional reform in Russia.

Ryabov offered deputies to adopt a resolution prepared by them to support the idea of creation of the Federation Council as a consultative body and suggest that the parliament speaker joins the council as a co-chairman together with the Russian president.

However, this proposal was not discussed.

Bearing in mind the conversation switched over to essential fundamentals of the Russian state structure, the deputies decided to postpone the discussion and give an estimation to activities of Nikolay Ryabov at a joint meeting of parliament chambers in the near future.

Commission To Investigate Foreign Ministry Established

LD2708162393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1344 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Russia's Supreme Soviet today confirmed the composition of a parliamentary commission which is charged with "studying and making a thorough appraisal of the activities of the Russian Federation's Foreign Affairs Ministry." Viktor Zhigulin, deputy chairman of the Soviet of the Republic of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, was appointed as its head.

The members of the commission also include Yevgeniy Ambartsumov—chairman of the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations—the deputies Mikhail Astafyev, Aleksandr Dzasokhov, Yevgeniy Kozhokin, Ivan Shashiashvili, and others.

Parliament Accepts Amendments to 'Freedom of Confessions' Law

LD2708163293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Russian parliament has discussed and approved the president's amendments and addenda to the law on the freedom of confessions at a joint session of both chambers today.

There were many debates in Russian society as to whether restrictions imposed on missionary activities of foreigners, including religious association expected to bring various material benefits to its members, were correct.

In accordance with the president's proposal, these provisions were amended to bring them in line with the constitution of the Russian Federation and Russia's international commitments.

Thus, Part 3 of Article 10 was amended as follows: "The use of force measures in religious activities against citizens, including economic measures, in their choice of the attitude to religion, including getting material benefits or aid provided they join a religious group or quit it, and the use of other measures infringing on personal freedom when making a choice of confession, is punished by law."

To 'Freedom of Religion' Law

LD2708170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—A joint meeting of the Russian parliament chambers adopted today practically all proposals of President Boris Yeltsin on the introduction of changes and additions to the law "on freedom of religion".

Sharing the parliament concern over the moral state of Russian society and recognizing the important role of Russian religions in its revival, the state head fully supported major ideas of the law "on the introduction of changes and additions to the Russian law 'on freedom of religion'" submitted to him by the parliament for signing.

At the same time, a presidential message says the availability in the law of provisions, which do not correspond to the current Russian Constitution and universally-recognized international legal norms, requires considerable improvement of some of the law's articles. This has been dome by the parliamentary committee for freedom of conscience and relations with public, religious and charity organization, and the new edition of the law was approved by deputies.

For instance, the law has a provision, saying each person, regardless one's belonging to the Russian citizenship, shall have equal rights to the freedom of conscience and religion. The new edition offers this provision in the following form: "Citizens of the Russian Federation, foreign citizens and stateless persons shall have the right to the freedom of conscience and religion on territory of the Russian Federation individually or jointly, privately or publicly in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation".

The right to joint satisfaction of religious needs shall be used in church services, rites and ceremonies, in sermons, religious education and training.

The law has been supplemented with an important norm, saying the state shall support religious organizations, whose activities preserve and develop historical traditions and customs, national- cultural originality, art and other cultural heritage of peoples of the Russian Federation.

Russian, Belarusian Parliaments To Expand Contacts

LD2708173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Fillipov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—Russian people's deputies came out in favour of a proposal made by their Belarusian colleagues to deepen and expand interparliamentary contacts between the two republics.

At a joint session of both chambers today Russian parliamentarians adopted a resolution pointing out the great importance of joint efforts made by the two top representative bodies "for the solution of socio-economic problems and overcoming difficulties caused by the disruption of economic ties."

The Russian Parliament decided to hand over to the Belarusian Parliament proposals on developing an agreement on cooperation and the establishment of a joint group of deputies to conduct the necessary consultations and prepare a draft of the above-mentioned agreement.

Eighth Session of Supreme Soviet To Open 28 Sep

LD2708193693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—A regular, 8th session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is due to open on September 28. The decision was taken on Friday by the parliament presidium which assembled immediately after the joint meeting of the chambers.

The current extraordianry session was found to be considered as the 7th session.

The presidium did not discuss the agenda of the 8th session.

Yuriy Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet said the agenda will be specified after committees and commissions submit their proposals.

Hearing Dicusses Cyrogenic Rocket Dispute

LD2708223893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1445 GMT on 27 August broadcast the "Parliamentary Hour" program, which included a 15-minute video report by N. Rauzhin on the dispute over the supply of cryogenic engines to India.

The report focuses on a Supreme Soviet hearing at which Yuriy Nikolayevich Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency, defends the Foreign Ministry's decision to suspend the contract for supplying rocket technology to India.

The report comprises of short voice extracts from the hearing interspersed with Rauzhin's comments and background information. It did not say when the hearing had taken place.

Koptev is shown beginning his report as follows: "Proceeding from the specific question linked with India, it seems to us that we should take account of a whole range of questions—concerning security, concerning our own possibilities for maintaining access to space, and linked with normal civilized relations within the framework of international cooperation. Now I return to the Indian contract. I would ask those here today, in view of where we find ourselves, to speak the truth."

Rauzhin recaps on the development of the dispute in recent months. Another Koptev extract followed:

"The question of the Indian deal is one episode—I do not mean it is of little significance, but it is a question that represents only a fragment of the possibilities in the plans for Russia's space activities."

Responding to a comment about the critical state of the Russian space industry, Koptev says: "Today, if some extra sources are not found, in view of the fact that Russia is in an extremely serious economic situation, Russia could cease to exist as a space power within the next year or 18 months."

Aleksandr Ivanovich Dunayev, chairman of Glavkosmos, tells the hearing that the cryogenic contract involves hundreds of millions of rubles, and could help save the industry

Koptev also raises the question of the rocket technology nonproliferation regime. Rauzhin gives some background information on this, emphasizing that it was based on U.S. legislation, and adding that Russia's entry into the regime is planned for 1996. Koptev is shown telling the hearing: "Russia will be guided in its export practice, within the framework of bilateral relations with the United States, by the basic standards and demands of this regime." He goes on to say: "The fulfillment of the document in its entirety binds us to undertake not to reenter a regime, not to sell off technology and manufacturing resources on the side. That is a tough demand."

Koptev goes on to argue, Rauzhin said, that the salvation of the Russian space industry would lie in its participation in the American Freedom Space Station project. Koptev says the project could earn Russia 600-700 million dollars for its space industry by the year 2000. However, Rauzhin went on, participation in the project is conditional on Russia rejecting the Indian project. Furthermore, he added, there is no guarantee that orders will be received for the Freedom project: It merely allows Russian organizations to participate in tenders in very tough conditions. Rauzhin mocks Koptev's claim that the Freedom project might fall through without Russia's participation.

Glavkosmos Chairman Dunayev is shown telling the hearing that it should be the government, and not the Foreign Ministry which should make an official decision on the fate of the contract. A.I. Kiselev, general director of the Khrunichev Space Center, told the hearing that if the state gives the government some support, a satisfactory solution could be found.

Kiselev continues: "I took part in the first round of talks in the United States, and in the second round of talks in the United States. As you know, at the beginning of June, the first round, which was led by Shokhin, ended without result. The Americans were not allowed, and the second time they were not allowed either, to dictate their own conditions. They have their own laws, we said, we have our own Supreme Soviet; since it has adopted this law, so be it. We will submit to that. The conditions that were set out at the first talks were not very fair, I would say, but we stood firm. All the people sitting there, people from the Foreign Ministry and ourselves, were united. We were a single team. We could not agree to such things."

Rauzhin adds that Andrey Kozyrev was to blame for initialling the humiliating memorandum in spite of Russia's own legislation on control over exported rocket technology. Koptev, by signing the memorandum in Washington, undertook to act according to U.S. laws, not Russian ones, Rauzhin said.

The report ends with a brief conversation between Koptev and Yevgeniy Pudovkin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Subcommittee on International Law. Pudovkin says: "The Russian air and space complex now wants to stifle the initiative of our own new space structures. I mean in particular, the Russian Space Agency and its Director Koptev, who has diametrically altered his position over the past year, and after a few visits to the United States, is now asking our air and space complex to put on a sort of space striptease before U.S. legislation, and to give itself up fully to the authority of U.S. laws."

Stepashin Defends Parliament Defense Committee's Work

PM2708123593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 7

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security, by Sergey Petrov; place, date not given: "Sergey Stepashin: 'I Categorically Oppose a Parliamentary Republic'"]

[Text] [Petrov] Your committee, which has for a long time stood aloof from the political struggle in parliament, is now at the center of attention of five deputies' factions. What, basically, are the complaints being leveled at yourself, Sergey Vadimovich, and at your committee?

[Stepashin] Basically they are as follows: The Army has been destroyed, the Army has fallen to pieces, the level of combat readiness is zero—and all this is Stepashin's fault... I believe the Army is currently going through a difficult period. But tell me—what other army in the world has been reformed, cut back, and withdrawn like ours, when the USSR broke up in an extremely grave economic and political situation?

Nobody can say that the Ministry of Defense has lost control over the Army, the withdrawal of its troops, or the business of quartering and supplying them. As far as our committee is concerned, a whole package of laws concerning the country's defense and security, the status of servicemen, and social guarantees for servicemen has been formulated with its direct involvement. In our work we try to be objective and refrain from giving anyone an opportunity to play a political card regarding the power [silovyye] structures.

[Petrov] But all the same, it seems to me that your opponents have some grounds for criticism: For example, a military doctrine has still not been adopted....

[Stepashin] Right now someone in the Supreme Soviet is attempting to play on the fact that there is apparently no legal basis for reforming the Russian Army and no military doctrine. Let me venture to assure you that this is not so. The main provisions of the military doctrine were drawn up this spring and were examined in the Security Council and an enlarged session of our committee. Which is to say that the military doctrine exists as a document, it only remains to be examined at a Supreme Soviet session. Unless the present political upheavals get in the way, this will be done in the fall.

[Petrov] The Army is outside politics. Some repeat this argument put forward by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev like a mantra, while others regard it more as a fondly held notion....

[Stepashin] The package of military acts and general military regulations, work on which is currently being completed, in my view shields the Army from participation in the political struggle. This is our committees's position, and it is a position which the Ministry of Defense understands as well.

But nevertheless it has not proved possible to resolve this issue entirely at the legislative level. The Law "On the Status of Servicemen" basically does not prevent a serviceman from getting involved in the work of a political organization when he is not performing his military service. Of course, there is a possibility that he may spread the influence of a particular organization in the barracks. The activities of the Officers Union illustrate this.

[Petrov] Sergey Vadimovich, does parliament have to be so intransigent in its relations with the government? Or are there deputies in it who are striving to find a common language with the Cabinet of Ministers?

[Stepashin] Most Supreme Soviet committees, including our own, have a normal working relationship with the government. There is no conflict with Pochin's committee, Aslakhanov's committee, Yeremin's industrial committee, or the agrarian committee... Although some people would very much like to aggravate relations with the government, and this includes some people in the Supreme Soviet.

[Petrov] Analyzing your recent statements and actions, one comes to the conclusion that you have distanced yourself somewhat from the parliamentary leadership and have taken an independent stand on some issues. What are your views in this case?

[Stepashin] Briefly, I support a strong executive branch with civilized parliamentary control. I categorically oppose a parliamentary republic. In a state like Russia with its enormous territories, no parliament, not even an extremely active one, can stand its ground with the current level of defective legislation.

Regional Affairs

Militia Troops Remove Passengers From Runway

LD2808195893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] At Moscow's Vnukovo airport today there was a large crowd of passengers from numerous flights who were unable to take off for Novosibirsk and Vladivostok. [passage omitted]

The shift chief at the Vnukovo air traffic association said that airplanes will not be able to refuel at Novosibirsk or Krasnoyarsk until 31 August. The desperate passengers went out onto the runway but were removed by special purpose militia detachment personnel using batons. As a result, one passenger has been hospitalized and two others, so-called instigators, are in serious condition at the Aeroflot's militia station.

Head of Maritime Kray on Talks With Chernomyrdin

OW3008115693

[Editorial Report] Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian at 0210 GMT on 23 August carries in its regular "Lunch Hour Break" program a recorded and edited interview with the head of Maritime Kray administration Yevgeniy Nozdratenko, who discusses the visit by a delegation of government officials led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. There is no indication of who conducted the interview or where and when it took place.

Nozdratenko begins by stressing that the visiting central government delegation is the largest and most high-ranking to visit the Maritime Kray. He points out that a number of documents were signed, but expresses caution when it comes to the outcome.

"I will wait to see what, if any, results these various documents produce," he said.

He adds that after the signing of some basic documents, kray officials were invited to Moscow to continue work on some of the documents. He promises to go on air in two weeks time and give details of the accords, including any figures for funds transferred to Maritime Kray.

Nozdratenko goes on to describe an intensive, three-hour, closed- door meeting with Chernomyrdin, in which, he says, Chernomyrdin suggested that he resign because of the situation in the kray.

"I told him that judging by the state of the country, he should be the one resigning," says Nozdratenko.

However, he characterized their meeting as generally productive, covering such issues as the cost of coal produced in the Maritime Kray, the collection of customs tariffs, and problems in the mining industry.

Nozdratenko says he hopes that the documents that were signed will not prove to be as ineffective as the Yeltsin decrees, which had no practical results.

Asked what the administration plans to do if the promises are not kept, Nozdratenko says: "We will do what we have promised to do. Mr. Filatov of the presidential administration, who referred to me as the head of administration who calls for strikes, should first find out how people live in this country; he should spend less time on politics and more on doing his job."

His final comments are cautiously optimistic about the effects and future benefits of the documents signed with Chernomyrdin.

Ingush Call for Secession Referendum Viewed

LD2908164293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The statement by Ingush President Ruslan Aushev in which he appealed to CIS leaders received a negative reaction in North Ossetia. The Ingush president directed sharp criticism at Russian policy in the northern Caucasus and stated that a referendum may be held in Ingushetia on secession from Russia.

In the view of Aleksandr Khodov, secretary of the North Ossetia Security Council, this statement is prompting extremist forces toward confrontation and is leading neither to constructive dialogue nor to a search for peace and accord in the region.

Shelling Incidents Registered in North Ossetia

LD2708183393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1034 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 27 Aug—There were 27 incidents of shelling of settlements and militia check points recorded over the last few days in the restricted action zone of the state of emergency regime on the territory of North Ossetia. According to data from the republic's Security Council, there was especially intensive bombardment of the checkpoint of the internal troops of Russia's Internal Affairs Ministry from the direction of the village of Ali-Yurt, and it was not calm in the village of Nizhnyy Lars which is situated on the Georgian military highway. The checkpoint and border detail were repeatedly fired upon with automatic weapons from the surrounding forested slopes.

The issues of providing security for civilians and rebuilding the houses destroyed during the armed conflict were discussed today at a meeting between Akhsarbek Galazov, the head of the parliament of North Ossetia, and the residents of the village of Chermen in Prigorodnyy rayon. He called upon the residents to return to their native parts.

Today Yuriy Shatalin, the acting head of the temporary administration, met the heads of administration from the settlements in Prigorodnyy rayon of North Ossetia. The issues of stabilizing the situation in the zone, in which the state of emergency regime is in effect, and the problems relating to a comprehensive solution to the problem of refugees and people who have been forced to resettle were examined.

Today a delegation of the elders of Kalmykia arrived in Vladikavkaz. The purpose of the peace-making mission is to promote a settlement of relations between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

North Ossetia Quiet; Rallies in South Ossetia

LD2808175193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 28 Aug—The last 24 hours in the limited zone where the state of emergency is in force in North Ossetia's territory were unusually quiet.

As the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned, a meeting was held in the headquarters of the temporary administration, between acting head of the temporary administration Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin, the leadership of the North Ossetian Security Council, and the heads of the administrations in the limited zone of the state of emergency in the republic's territory. A range of problems to do with the procedure for the movement of transport convoys containing refugees and displaced persons was discussed, and measures for ensuring the safety of the civilian population were determined.

According to a report from the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet Press Center, rallies by the republic's inhabitants and refugees from Georgia's interior rayons are continuing outside the parliament building in Tskhinvali, and they are demanding that a telegram be sent to the president, the Supreme Soviet chairman, and the head of the government of Russia, requesting that the signing of the full- scale treaty with the Republic of Georgia be delayed until the Georgian leadership defines the political status of the Republic of South Ossetia.

Ossetian-Ingush Situation Updated

LD2908105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 29 TASS—The situation remains stable in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. No armed clashes were reported here in the last 24 hours, according to North Ossetian Security Council.

At the same time, sporadic gunfire was heard in several villages in the Republic's Prigorodnyy District, the vicinities of Vladikavkaz and the Georgian military highway last night. No casualties were reported. A bomb explosion was reported in the school yard in the village of Tarskoye in the Prigorodnyy District. As a result, the building of the school was damaged.

A total of 18 crimes have been registered in the republic in the past 24 hours. Law enforcement bodies confiscated five guns, grenades and several hundred rounds of ammunition.

ITAR-TASS learnt from reliable sources that Russian Interior Ministry troops have combed some villages under the state of emergency for illegal armed groups which may have been involved in the assassination of Viktor Polyanichko, head of the temporary administration of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

International Affairs

Kravchuk-Yeltsin Summit Set for 3 Sep in Crimea

LD2908134593 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0715 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 28 Aug—As Russian President Boris Yeltsin has reported at a regular news conference, the summit at the level of the leaders of Ukraine and Russia is to take place on 3 September in the Crimea. A wide range of issues is to be discussed.

Crimean Situation Viewed Before Summit

MK2708130093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 1, 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report under the "Crimea" rubric: "Black Sea Fleet Awaits Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting. Russian Supreme Soviet To Set Up Its Mission in Sevastopol?"]

[Excerpts] On the eve of the upcoming meeting in Crimea between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, which is scheduled to dwell on a wide range of problems regarding the Black Sea Fleet, the status of Sevastopol, and further relations between Russia and Ukraine, the political situation on the peninsula has sharply deteriorated. Simferopol and Sevastopol have become the scene of minor rallies. Leaders of pro-Russian parties and movements demand that the Black Sea Fleet's integrity be maintained, pointing out that the fleet should be made entirely Russian along with the city of Sevastopol. Anatoliy Los, chairman of Crimea's Russian Society, said in an interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent: "Any split of the Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine is out of the question. The Black Sea Fleet is Russian, and Russia is right to own it. Ukraine does not and cannot have any relation to it, nor does it have anything to do with Sevastopol either. Generally speaking, we favor a voluntary accession of Ukraine to Russia. I am confident that Ukraine's new political leadership that will come to power after Kravchuk will take this reasonable and only correct step. For one cannot split the two peoples for the sake of someone's political ambitions. In principle, I do not believe in such a thing as two peoples. All of us—Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians—are the people of Russia [rossiyane] hailing from one monolithic state called Kievan Rus." This view is shared by Sergey Shuvaynikov, chairman of Crimea's Russian Party. Yuriy Meshkov, chairman of Crimea's Republican Movement and the Republican Party of Crimea, who is also a Crimean Supreme Soviet people's deputy, thinks that "the Republic of Crimea should in the end become an independent state that is part of the CIS and live in friendship and accord with both Russia and Ukraine, as well as with other republics." Yuriy Meshkov said in an interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that the movement and party he heads insist that the Black Sea Fleet be indivisible and "should be the guarantor of stability in the Black Sea and Mediterranean region." Yuriy Meshkov is not certain that the Black Sea Fleet can operate under the joint command of the two states. "I am certain," he said, "that it would be better if the Black Sea Fleet were Russian, and Russia were protecting Ukraine's interests in the region. A similar practice exists in the world. I think all would benefit from this. There will be no political passions on the fleet, nor will there be any rivalry over the oath of allegiance—whether it should be given to Russia, or to Ukraine, or to the CIS."

Meanwhile, your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned that a group of admirals and officers of the Ukrainian Navy has finished drawing up proposals for the Ukrainian president's upcoming Russian-Ukrainian summit. The group included, among others, Nikolay Kalitnyy and Vladimir Beskaravaynyy, rear admirals of the Ukrainian Navy, who have long naval service experience. So far, the proposals have been kept secret. Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has managed to learn, however, that the Ukrainian Navy group proposes that Black Sea Fleet ships be split in two between Ukraine and Russia and that the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet be pulled out from the city of Sevastopol. The press center of the Ukrainian Navy, to which your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent turned for comments, did not deny this information, but clarified: "There are several versions of proposals for the Ukrainian president."

A group of Russian Federation people's deputies paid a visit to Sevastopol this week. [passage omitted] Russian People's Deputies Yevgeniy Pudovkin, Eduard Vedernikov, and Ivan Rymarev attended the meeting in Sevastopol of officers who are commanders of Black Sea Fleet task forces and units. Yevgeniy Pudovkin said in his address to the meeting: "Russia has not and will not give up Sevastopol. We have stood up for this and will continue to do so firmly. Let the Ukrainian side make no mistake. Sevastopol has never been Ukrainian. This has not been provided in the Belovezhskaya Forest treaty or any other agreements cited by politicians.

"At present, the question is being raised about setting forth Sevastopol's status in the constitution as a component of Russian state subordination along with the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg." Yevgeniy Pudovkin told the officers that "shortly Russia will fully finance the Black Sea Fleet. All documents have been prepared. What is yet to be resolved is the technical side to the matter." The Russian deputies made negative remarks about the upcoming meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Crimea. Ivan Rymarev noted that the president and the government of the Russian Federation have already made a lot of mistakes, and had they not made them, "both Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet would have long been Russian."

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned from independent sources close to the Russian

Federation Supreme Soviet's leaders that one of these days, apparently on 27 August, a closed plenary meeting of the Russian Supreme Soviet will be held in Moscow to decide on opening a mission of the Russian Supreme Soviet in Sevastopol to be headed by Yevgeniy Pudovkin. One of the sources has cited Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov as saying that "this has to be done immediately so that the mission will be working by the time the presidents meet."

Preparing for the upcoming summit, a large group of officers and generals of the Russian Navy rear services under Air Force Major General Zhukov has arrived in Crimea. The Black Sea Fleet's press center has denied information that has spread in Crimea and in the Black Sea Fleet about the possible arrival of Admiral Igor Kasatonov, former commander of fleet and currently first deputy commander of the Russian Federation Navy.

Legislator, Presidential Adviser on Peacekeeping in Bosnia

WS3008094193 Kiev KIEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 3

["Excerpts" of interview with Ihor Ploskonos, secretary of the Supreme Council Permanent Committee for State Security and Defense, and Major General Volodymyr Petenko, presidential adviser on military issues, by NOVOSTI military correspondent Georgiy Chenomorskiy: "Do Not Pull Chestnuts Out of the Fire"]

[Text] [Chernomorskiy] Bill Clinton has declared that the United States is ready to launch a military action to protect Bosnian Muslims without a UN resolution. Aside from this, Americans are pressing their NATO allies to do the same. If this happens, what will be the fate of the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo?

[Ploskonos] I want to be frank, if I were the president I would think seven times before sending the Ukrainian battalion to Sarajevo. On the one hand, armed missionaries are not welcome everywhere. No matter how vigorously we advertise the peacekeeping function of the "blue helmets," these people do not always come with a white dove of peace. Take Somalia, for instance, where many residents died from the bullets and missiles of "peacekeepers". The issue constitutes another danger. Using the UN's high prestige as a cover, the United States often tries to achieve its own geopolitical goals. The legislative basis of U.S. actions is very feeble. I mean the repeated air bomb and missile strikes on Iraq.

The situation of our battalion in Bosnia is rather complicated. The conflict has a religious and not an ethnic background. Muslims do not care much for Orthodox Christians, to put it mildly. The same is true with regard to Catholic Croats. Orthodox Serbs have cooled toward us after our disputes with Russia, toward whom Serbs cherish traditionally friendly sentiments.

A member of our committee, retired officer Sergey Kolesnik, is in the Balkans now and we have access to detailed information. The very fact that a Ukrainian contingent is a member of UN forces, adds to Ukraine's prestige. However, in my opinion, the battalion should stay in Sarajevo as a peacekeeping unit.

Ukraine should not pull chestnuts out of the fire for anyone's advantage. If the United States or somebody else provokes another round of the war, the battalion must be immediately withdrawn from the Balkans. I think that not only the military should deal with these issues but our Foreign Ministry as well. I would say that our diplomats are not carrying out an active policy. They are rather walking in the footsteps of events.

[Petenko] I understand that you are most interested in what the adviser will advise the president. The situation in the Balkans is dramatic. A group of competent Defense Ministry officials flew there some time ago. I believe that we will listen to their report soon. The report will become the foundation for making further decisions on the fate of our battalion in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There are four UN battalions in the Balkans right now—Ukrainian, Russian, French, and Egyptian.

I want to say that lately, our boys have won authority in Bosnia and due to this there have been fewer losses. Serbs, Croats, and Muslims have repeatedly turned to the UN with requests to increase the strength of the Ukrainian battalion. I think that we should agree to this measure. This would be a whole lot better than sending our troops to Somalia, although the UN insists on the latter.

The Horn of Africa region is none of the Ukrainian boys' business. Local residents there often feel resentment toward "blue helmets." I must say that these people have grounds for these sentiments. Missiles were repeatedly fired on populated districts from under the UN blue banner, killing civilians. Regardless of the lofty ideals driving the peacekeepers, killing civilians is a crime. There is no excuse for interfering in the internal affairs of any state.

With regard to the Balkans, the United States will hardly dare strike Serb positions without a UN resolution. If this does happen I will advise the president, who is the commander of chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, to withdraw our troops from the Balkans. We must protect the prestige of a peacekeeping nation. Ukraine should not pull chestnuts out of the fire for anyone.

Official Views European Security System, Nuclear Arms

AU2908204793 Poznan WPROST in Polish 22 Aug 93 p 4

[Statement by Borys Tarasyuk, deputy foreign minister responsible for security affairs; place and date not given: "Nuclear Card"]

[Text] "Europe today is made up of large units—NATO, the WEU [Western European Union], the EC, and the Visegrad Group, just to name a few. We want to create a whole out of these elements and that is the aim of our initiative concerning the establishment of a general European security system.

"The emergence of a new Europe cannot be solely confined to the West because Europe would then be divided. We are interested in integrating all states and blocks—from the Atlantic to the Urals. Following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, peace can only be guaranteed by a European security system, and it is not only Ukraine that is concerned about the absence of such a system. We are very carefully following the efforts made by some states that belonged to the old Eastern Bloc to find a place in Western European security structures. However, we can see that this is not yielding results.

"As far back as 1990, we declared that Ukraine will become a state without nuclear weapons. Those are not empty assurances because we are actively realizing the program. It suffices to present the facts: In May 1992, tactical nuclear weapons were removed from Ukraine and we also proposed a revision of the START I Treaty so that it would become a multilateral agreement. We would also like our parliament to adopt a stance on such an important issue.

"Foreign observers of our political scene accuse many Ukrainian politicians of opposing the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from our territory and believe that our declarations are only tactical moves. That is not true, but Ukrainian politicians are concerned about the future of the state and are demanding that the government find answers to the questions troubling them: Who will guarantee the security of Ukraine when we freely give up the third largest quantity of nuclear weapons in the world? Where will Ukraine find the resources necessary for nuclear disarmament? The sums are colossal and we simply cannot afford to spend such sums today.

"Whose hands will the weapons end up in and who will gain financially from the radioactive materials they contain is also a matter of concern to us. There are also other questions that our parliament expects answers to. Unfortunately, it has not received them because not everything depends on us. We are fulfilling our duties as members of the international community and we expect the same from the UN Security Council—that it should guarantee our security.

"Contrary to various suggestions, Ukraine is not playing a 'nuclear card,' but we would be bad politicians if we were not guided by the interests of our society and state. That is why in agreeing to nuclear disarmament, we must receive clear guarantees that no nuclear state will use its weapons against us or will apply economic pressure on us. Unfortunately, it is only wishful thinking for the time being.

"Poland is one of the few European states that—long before independence was officially declared—foresaw how the situation would develop in Ukraine and established diplomatic relations with us. Unfortunately, now there are grounds for criticizing both sides. After all, we believe that both states' problems are similar to a large extent. Poland and Ukraine can act as a 'cementing factor' in Central-Eastern Europe. The countries possess a significant industrial, agricultural, scientific, technical, and, of course, military potential. So, both states should perform a stabilizing role not only for our region but also for the entire continent."

Kiev Prepared To Cooperate With NASA

LD2908151193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Ukraine is prepared to implement several large-scale projects together with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. This was stated by our representative at the latest session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which convened in New York.

The projects relate, in particular, to using SS-19 and SS-24 strategic missiles deployed on Ukrainian territory for commercial purposes jointly with Americans. With their help, civilian cargo can be launched into space. There also is a proposal to develop and foster aviation and space complexes based on the Mriya-type wide-body aircraft.

'Green Party' Wants Fair Division of Soviet Assets

WS2708112193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The problem of the incomplete division of the Soviet foreign assets and funds is among the factors that complicate the present economic situation in Ukraine. This was stressed in a press release issued by the Ukrainian Green Party. A fair division of ownership and succession rights is a precondition for cooperation of the states on the principles of genuine parity. No (?preliminary) agreements can be subject to discussion until this problem is settled in a way acceptable for Ukraine, the press release emphasized.

National Affairs

Deputy Prime Minister Pynzenyk Announces Resignation

LD2708201793 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Aug 93

["Excerpts" from remarks by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk given on the "Uryadovyy Visnyk" program in Kiev on 27 August]

[Text] Kiev, 27 Aug—In a live appearance on the program "Uryadovyy Visnyk" [Government Courier],

Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said, in connection with the increase of grain procurement prices which he heard about in August: "I cannot accept responsibility for this decision. Let those people who made this decision accept responsibility for it. I announce my resignation. I would like to apologize to the prime minister at once for being forced to do this. It was impossible to act at the time while this was being done, as procurement was under way at full speed. Unfortunately, nothing can be changed even now, therefore the decision on social protection was the only right one in this situation...

"Another reason for this step I am taking is this. The deputies have been handed a draft resolution on the introduction of a temporary procedure of regulating the Ukrainian karbovanets exchange rate. Having approved this resolution, signed by the chief ideologue behind this decision [Vasyl] Sukhyy, the Cabinet of Ministers Presidium ruled the introduction of the temporary procedure as inexpedient. I would like to say that I was emphatically against this resolution, and I spoke against this decision as one that is extremely destructive for Ukraine's economy..."

Resigns Over Fixed Exchange Rates

LD2708202593 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Aug 93

[UNIAN punctuation throughout]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Viktor Pynzenyk, deputy prime minister for issues of economic reform, announcing his resignation, granted an exclusive interview to an UNIAN correspondent.

"I have long thought about my resignation. I kept working while it was still possible to adopt some things and prevent others... However, a situation emerged where decisions were being taken behind my back and I was unable to convince the leadership that they were disastrously wrong. Which decisions are these? First of all, the introduction of a fixed karbovanets rate against hard currencies. This will kill our exports, which would imply reduction in imports. I was the only Cabinet of Ministers member who spoke against the fixed rate but I failed to achieve anything. Secondly, Ukraine has a disastrous debt to Russia. This requires urgent economic decisions, such as the abolition of quotas, licenses, value added tax, customs, and excise duties. This was partially managed with great difficulty, although I was unable to see the crucial decisions through. This is impossible, given the conservative attitudes of most Cabinet of Ministers members.

I feared that this kind of government would be unable to implement even the best of documents. I can name those who specifically interfere with the course of reforms, but I would not like to. They are, at least, one deputy prime minister, six ministers, and four state committee chairmen. The conduct of Volodymyr Stelmakh, first deputy chairman of the Board of the National Bank, is the conduct of a man who makes a U-turn in his views every couple of days. Behind the decision on the introduction of a fixed rate were also two advisers to the prime minister, namely adviser for issues of the monetary reform Viktor Suslov.

Tomorrow, at 8.30 a.m., I will be present at a session of the Cabinet of Ministers Presidium. It is now difficult for me to predict the course of this session. I did not coordinate my move with those who were on the same team with me, but nobody can deny me the right of resignation. I will insist on it."

Kuchma Comments on Resignation

LD2908111393 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0715 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 28 Aug—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has given a news conference at the Gostomel airfield near Kiev on the occasion of Aviators Day. Among the questions asked by journalists were some dealing with the prime minister's attitude toward the resignation of Viktor Pynzenyk. Leonid Kuchma was outspoken:

"It is clear that the government that I head is living through its last days. Yesterday we had a serious conversation with Viktor Pynzenyk concerning the results of the Supreme Council session. When the parliament—no matter what kind of a parliament it is—came out against Pynzenyk delivering a report at the session, the resignation of the deputy prime minister for issues of economic reform became obvious."

"What is our parliament today? All countries have already covered the road to reelecting parliaments. The only thing our parliament should do until it is reelected is draft the election law and the constitution. The legislative right should be passed over to the president and the executive power to the government. I plan to deliver a report on the economic program at the Supreme Council session on 31 August and to ask the deputy corps to work seriously on the submitted program."

Regarding indebtedness to Russia, Leonid Kuchma said:

"It is difficult to settle the debt; over the past year we have accumulated debts to the sum of $2.5 billion. I have repeatedly asked the government to contact parliament commissions to sort out from where this $2.5 billion of debt appeared. It seems to me that we will now be unable to find such a sum. I do not see any creditors in the West, either. I continue to uphold the old stand: If we fail to reach a political decision concerning Russia, Ukraine's economy will not stand it. It is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table and find a solution."

Answering the question about the gas pipeline across Belarus, the prime minister said: "Russia is looking for partners it can deal with. In my opinion, the signed agreement on the gas pipeline across Belarus is negative for Ukraine."

Leonid Kuchma confirmed that Turkey is ready to block the passage of tankers with oil to Ukraine: "At a meeting of the Black Sea region countries, the Turkish side came out with an unambiguous warning in this connection. At present we have an opportunity to receive up to 12 million tonnes of oil on th. Black Sea. During my last meeting with Yeltsin I asked him not to stop oil supplies to Ukraine until the presidents of Ukraine and Russia meet. The most surprising thing for me is the fact that this issue is being hushed up by the parliament. I believe that our parliamentarians should go to Russia because Russia gives credits through the Supreme Council only."

Supreme Council Debates Referendum, Early Elections

Kravchuk Addresses Parliament

LD2708104493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1040 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Speech by President Leonid Kravchuk to the Supreme Council in Kiev—live]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies: In accordance with the president's constitutional status, in particular Item 1, Article 114-5 of the current Constitution, I have submitted an observation on the resolution that the Supreme Council adopted on 17 June this year, because the president is a guarantor of adherence to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

I stress that the president and the Supreme Council bear responsibility for adherence to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. No commands, neither by the president, nor by the Supreme Council, nor by the Cabinet of Ministers, bear responsibility for this. From the historical aspect only our responsibility will be designated. Theirs will be designated only as a consultative function, although sometimes this consultative function is rather contradictory.

I want to remind you that the thesis that one can adopt a decision of any nature is also legally incorrect. If an article is designated in the Constitution, and the procedure for holding a referendum is defined in laws, then we have no need whatsoever to violate the Constitution and the law on referendums, or we should introduce the appropriate changes to the Constitution and to the law on referendums.

You might recall a dangerous thesis that everything that is not prohibited is permitted. It has led to anarchy and [word indistinct]. We have to put an end to this now, i.e. to act in accordance with the Constitution and laws. That is why I would like to stress and support what has been said here by the chairman of the Supreme Council, which is that never and nowhere have I spoken against a referendum. The only thing is that I am in favor of this taking place in accordance with the Constitution and laws. Nothing else.

The Supreme Council can adopt a resolution of any nature. But it will also adopt it in accordance with the Constitution, or not in accordance with the Constitution. But the fact that I want to cast a shadow here, as they say, on real things. I have not spoken and am not speaking against the referendum. How can I do so? I am not setting it. I cannot speak against it. If it is in accordance with the Constitution and the appropriate signatures have been collected from people, and the Supreme Council has adopted a decision, I am fully subject to this decision. I want people to know this, because they want to pass the buck to the president again, saying that he is supposedly afraid, and wants to prevent this referendum. This is the first thing.

Second, I often supported this call in my speeches. I am also in favor of (?one defining one's stance) on issues of principle of the constitutional system in the referendum. So, please tell me, can a consultative polling referendum, that is this is only a consultation, adopt a decision on the constitutional system, and other things concerning the state system of Ukraine and so on. It cannot. (?This is) again self-deception. That is, if we want to hold this in accordance with the Constitution and the law, then let us do so.

Third, I was not the initiator of the referendum, as you know. The initiator of the referendum was the situation, and I am not intending to give a political assessment of this document. Its appearance is understandable because it was conditioned by a compromise version (?of resolving) a rather complex sociopolitical (?crisis) situation, which had arisen in Ukraine.

But (?as this did) happen, I made a proposal not to express one's attitude to the Supreme Council and to the president at the same time and within the same time period. The point in this case is not the surname of the president, nor the surname of a deputy.

It is about Ukraine. I then put forward the following proposal: Once you put it this way, let us hold parliamentary elections. A new parliament becomes operative and a referendum on the president takes place in accordance with the Constitution. If there is no confidence and if through a referendum it is decided to suspend the president's plenary powers before time, the president leaves the political arena and the Supreme Council is at work.

But if this takes place within one day and if someone very much wants no-confidence to be expressed within one day, it is then that political passions are aroused. Then a political game will start in reality, which can lead to severe consequences, and it is once again the people and Ukraine that will be taken hostage. This is what was suggested and what I worked from, rather than someone wanting to avoid or abandon a referendum. This is up to the Supreme Council.

Now, as for the analytical materials analyzed here by commission chairmen, they all demonstrate one thing, which is that all the materials place the emphasis on

contradictions in raising issues of holding an opinion poll-type referendum. This is true, is it not? It is. That is why the world practice is that such issues as confidence in deputies elected by all the people, given that it is provided for—and it is provided for—both by the Constitution and laws on a referendum, cannot be taken to an advisory referendum. The same applies to the president. It is not only impolite but also simply unlawful from the point of view of the constitution. Yes, laws do make provision for consulting the people. But on what issues? This is expressly specified in relevant articles.

I would like to ask the following question: Why do we have to violate the Constitution and laws? After all, historical experience and historical practice worldwide attest to the fact that if we take one step towards violation, our successors will take another. Then, a chain reaction will start. Once again lawlessness and once again that which was experienced (?before).

So let us not depart from the Constitution and laws. I am absolutely in favor of this. We—incidentally, it was done by a commission, our constitution commission—submitted a draft constitution for the Supreme Council. We did it and announced it. Why does the Supreme Council refuse to discuss this issue? Well, let us discuss it then. After all, the constitution has been put forward. Let us determine our position on the state system. If the Supreme Council is unable to make a decision, let the people say that we need a parliamentary republic. The day the people will vote for a parliamentary republic, the figure, office, and status of the president cease to exist. What is the problem here, once we do it in a constitutional and lawful way?

However, today we think that there will be a winner in this struggle. The left thinks it is they who will gain the upper hand and the right thinks it is them who will have the upper hand. You see? Unfortunately, we have them. We have the left and the right. So does the whole world and so do we. They do exist. What else can be said? We have got them (?all). There is both the center, and the left and right.

So, I propose, esteemed people's deputies, without passion, without some kind of intentions, let us take the constitutional path and adopt appropriate resolutions and decisions, which will be in line with the Constitution and the law adopted by us on Ukraine-wide and local referendums.

Because there are two paths: Either to take the path of constitutional law, which we have, or to make changes to the Constitution and the law on referendums. I do not see another path. If the Supreme Council is ready to review the Constitution now, to review the law on referendums, and to introduce those proposals, which are being discussed here, this is also a possible path.

But all the same, one way or another, to deviate from the Constitution and the law is a very dangerous thing for a lawful state, for a democratic state, and all the responsibility, I emphasize, will be borne by the president and the Supreme Council, no one else.

There is another thing: If one is to sum up the time that has passed since the adoption by the Supreme Council of a resolution on holding a referendum, almost all political parties without exception and many councils and public organizations, however they are evaluated—we evaluate them and they correspondingly evaluate us, so there are matters of this nature here—express themselves against this referendum, not against a referendum altogether but against this referendum, which will not give the appropriate results, legal and lawful ones.

For after this, when, for example, confidence in the president is expressed, the Supreme Council is to adopt a decision on preterm elections of the president. I am posing a specific question—on the basis of what laws can the Supreme Council adopt this decision. There are none? That means that again the issue has been chased into a dead end. Well, we know this. We know this. Why do we pretend that we do not know, or listen to people, who deliberately push us to violate the Constitution and laws. That is, these things are too serious for one to have such a thoughtless attitude to them.

Voices are heard here regarding the resignation of the president. Yes, really. If this is envisaged in the Constitution, and it is envisaged, that the Supreme Council, in accordance with the conclusion of the Constitutional Court, if the president violates laws or the Constitution, can express, say, no confidence in him, and to give him the sack, if one can put it so crudely. But one should still act in accordance with the Constitution. This is the first thing. The second thing is that we cannot create a legal vacuum, a political vacuum or a power vacuum. That is, one should act consistently so that we know that there is a people, there is a state, and it is to be defended by someone.

Then another thing should be said. I, you understand, am against having such a thoughtless attitude to those people, who were elected by the people, both the deputies and the president. One thing is the resignation of people who have been appointed, that is another thing. One should know this. There are appointed officials, and there are those who have been elected by all the people. To mix everything up, to put it all on one rung, and to go onto one level, the whole world is now laughing about this, that each one here is jostling to get onto the level of those who have been publicly elected or elected by the people. Well, this (?cannot be defended) if we are truly a lawful state, if we truly respect laws, the Constitution, and the order, which exists in the country.

I want to say something else. One should distinguish resignation as a measure of responsibility of a post chosen by all the people or an individual in a district and an appointed state official. These are entirely different things. A very easy way out would be resignation, to vote, to cancel, but one would then have to say that we are

again going over to new ways of thinking and to new directive ways of government.

Even if there is a negative attitude towards the president, a deputy in a [electoral] district, or the Supreme Council—given that it is adopted on the basis of the Constitution—I hope that nobody, neither the president nor a single deputy, will in that case be able to say that, you see, he does not wish to comply with the will of the people. There is an expression of will, but the expression of will has to be lawful and constitutional.

That is why, I would like to request people's deputies for all these passions to be brushed aside and for the main core issue of principle to be taken into consideration, that there is the state, Ukraine, and it has to be kept safe.

It is quite understandable if there is discontent—and there are grounds to say that there is discontent and [word indistinct]. It is understandable, since the people are impoverished, since the economy is coming down, since inflation is galloping, and since we do not see, let us say, any real steps towards improving the life of the people. There is discontent.

But who can say today that the Supreme Council or president were elected illegitimately? No one can say that. So why raise the very legitimacy and Constitution only to make everything legal and go on to elect and reelect so that neither the Constitution nor laws are violated?

I am finishing, however, even with all the possible variants of decisions which the Supreme Council can adopt. Nevertheless, I would very much like these decisions to be adopted and grounded in the Constitution, on laws. This is a path to peace, to accord and civilization. Believe me that fights began where elementary laws of the Constitution were violated and (?so on). Analyze the situation in any state of the former—any republic of the former Union, and you will see. Where people abided by the Constitution and laws, however disagreeable this may be, perhaps someone did not want to leave this stage, but by the will of the people that person was obliged to do so.

But if there is going to be lawlessness or some kind of illegal pressure, then counteraction to pressure always arises and unpleasantnesses on a very large scale begin. Ukraine today is in a truly difficult situation—the internal situation, and the external situation is no less difficult. Therefore, taking into account all of this, I am appealing to the miners, they have also understood, the talk is not about someone wanting to remain in power for longer, the talk is not about someone wanting to deceive someone else. The talk is about resolving everything on the basis of laws and the Constitution. It is this that I am calling you to.

Parliament Votes Down Draft Resolutions

LD2708190993 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev—On 27 August the issue of an all-Ukrainian referendum on confidence (non-confidence) in the president and Supreme Council was once again considered at the morning plenary meeting of the Ukrainian Supreme Council. Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch proposed that the validity of the resolution by the parliament of 17 June, appointing a referendum for 26 September, should be suspended and a new compromise resolution should be adopted, which would open the way for carrying out reforms. As was the case the day before, the debate was heated. A number of deputies said it was inexpedient to hold a nationwide poll, the results of which could be predicted. Five draft resolutions concerning a referendum were put to the vote but none of them gained the required number of votes.

The draft proposed by the Supreme Council Presidium was put to the vote three times but was short of 15-20 votes as well. It was proposed in accordance with it that the validity of the resolution of 17 June should be suspended and, instead, the eighth session of the Supreme Council should get under way to consider the issue of the draft of a new constitution and the state system of Ukraine, and the term of deputies' plenary powers should be reduced to four years. Ivan Plyushch maintained that the latter draft could "open the way for political reforms in Ukraine". Wishing to help adopt this draft, Leonid Kravchuk came up with the initiative to reduce the term of his plenary powers by four years as well. In the opinion of many people's deputies, "a stalemate situation" has come about, the discussion of which continues in the lobby. Closing the morning meeting, Ivan Plyushch noted that now "one should wait for electoral areas to react".

Kravchuk, Parties Call For Early Elections

MK2708124093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 4

[Alla Kovtun report in "Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on Early Parliamentary Elections" column: "The Parliament Has Not as Yet Passed a Decision of Self-Dissolution"]

[Text] A plenary session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet opened in Kiev yesterday. The presidium proposed including three items in the agenda: discussion of the government's latest anticrisis program; the issue of the 26 September referendum; and measures on the social protection of the population following the approximately five-fold increase in retail prices scheduled for the beginning of September.

Undoubtedly, the central question at the session is the referendum. On 17 June the Supreme Soviet, under the pressure of a mass strike that completely paralyzed the economic life of the republic's industrial eastern region,

adopted a decision to hold on 26 September a Ukraine-wide referendum on trust in parliament and the president. Later, however, the parliament did not ensure proper organization of the referendum and in early August the central electoral board, which had just begun preparations for the balloting, stopped its work. Thus the referendum was thwarted. The miners immediately warned about a possible resumption of political action.

From the very start, however, the absurdity of the referendum, which required 22 billion karbovanets, was obvious. The decision on the plebiscite was taken in violation of the law and therefore was legally binding. In addition, the question emerged of why large funds should be spent to find out something that is totally clear: The people do not trust the authorities. And whereas, according to public opinion polls, the president could still hope for a narrow victory, there was no such hope for the Supreme Soviet. Early elections are the sole possibility for the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to leave and still save face.

On the eve of yesterday's session a number of democratically oriented political parties—Rukh, the New Ukraine association, and others—circulated an appeal noting that "failure by the Supreme Soviet to observe its own decision on holding the referendum will finally undermine trust in the supreme legislative body and could bring about a catastrophic explosion." This could be prevented, the authors say, if the Supreme Soviet adopts a decision on its early election and a new law on elections based on multiparty principles.

At yesterday's session the deputies representing these parties called for early parliamentary elections. Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil described the present Supreme Soviet deputies as bankrupt since they are obstructing the economic reform. Leonid Kravchuk also addressed yesterday's session. In fact he also called on the deputies to hold early elections. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report tomorrow on the decision adopted by the session.

Rukh Prepares for Elections

LD2908174493 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0715 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 28 Aug—As reported by RUKH-PRES, in carrying out preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, Rukh is going to act as normal for the first stage of the election campaign. Preparations are already under way. This was declared in a resolution of the Minor Council of Rukh, which was held on 28 August in Kiev to approve the deadline for setting up the headquarters for election preparations (until 10 September), and the deadline for compiling lists of Rukh candidates to run for deputies at all the currently existing constituencies (until 1 October).

Les Tanyuk, member of the Supreme Council Presidium and the Rukh central leadership, called on activists of all Rukh structures to familiarize themselves with 27 March 1994 as the date of early elections to the top legislative body of power, despite the absence of a new election law and an approved structure for the future parliament. It was also decided to regard cooperation with the workers' organizations, trade unions, and strike committees as a priority trend in Rukh's activities aimed at the soonest possible dissolution of the Supreme Council and nomination of a nationwide poll concerning the actions of the Ukrainian president.

The Rukh Minor Council issued a resolution in connection with the situation of state management in Ukraine. In particular, it indicates that the crisis that has been developing since independence was proclaimed has acquired an all-embracing nature and threatens to grow into a national catastrophe in the near future. The main factor in the escalation of instability is the crisis of state power in Ukraine. From the legislative body the Supreme Council has long turned into an obstacle in the way of state development and is the main destabilizing element.

The Minor Council resolved:

- To consider joint actions with trade unions, strike committees, and working collectives geared to stopping the functioning of the Supreme Council and the promotion of a nationwide poll to assess the Ukrainian president's actions. This is to be a priority in the the Rukh's activities.

- To consider it expedient to develop regional programs taking into account local peculiarities, along with the general reelection program.

Supreme Council Raises Minimum Wage, Pensions

LD2908173293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Council has adopted a resolution on raising the minimum amounts of wages and old-age pensions. The Ukrainian Supreme Council resolves as follows:

Article 1. The minimum wages amount is to be fixed at 20,000 karbovantsi per month, and that of the minimum old-age pensions at 40,000 karbovantsi per month as from 1 September 1993. The amount of the minimum wages is to be used as [the basis for] calculations to determine wage rates, salaries of postal workers and welfare, concessionary and compensatory payments;

Article 2. With the purpose of compensating for bread and bread product retail price rises, and housing maintenance payment [increases], the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is: To introduce additional payments and determine the procedure of making payments, applicable to various strata of the population; working from the new levels of the minimum wages and pensions, to determine the amount of child benefit, unemployment benefit, temporary disability, and other social security

payments, as well as grants to students at higher educational institutions, post-graduates, candidates for a degree of doctor, and pupils at vocational training and educational institutions, and purpose-allocated financial assistance to disabled citizens on the minimum incomes; to review the nontaxable minimum income of citizens and the rate of progressive taxation; to determine the procedure of recalculating state pensions appointed prior to the introduction of the new amount of the minimum old-age pensions, envisaged by Article 1 of this resolution, and sources to cover these expenses; and to make corrections in the procedure of the regulation of the consumption fund at enterprises, institutions, and organizations in 1993.

Trade Union Congress Adopts Resolutions

LD2908095993 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0715 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 28 Aug—The work of the second congress of the Ukraine Federation of Trade Unions resulted in the adoption of a slightly amended draft resolution of the Congress of the Ukraine Federation of Trade Unions [UKTU] "On the Progress of Fulfilling Measures and Further Actions by the UKTU to Protect the Socioeconomic Interests of Trade Union Members in Conditions of Deepening Crisis and Declining Living Standards of the Population."

In particular, the UKTU resolved to demand that the president continue negotiations to solve the socioeconomic issues forwarded during the all-Ukrainian protest action on 15 June 1993. The resolution confirmed the aspiration for cooperation with the bodies of power and management. Territorial and branch trade union bodies were recommended to work with the Supreme Council, the Cabinet of Ministers, and the State Property Fund of Ukraine with the aim of ensuring the rights and privileges of work collectives. The congress emphasized the necessity to step up the political activities of trade union committees to defend the rights of trade union members.

The congress adopted an appeal to the president, the Supreme Council, and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the formation of an economic union of the CIS countries and Ukraine's accession to this union. On the basis of this appeal, the congress endorsed a resolution "On Support for Ukraine's Accession to the Economic Union of the CIS States" after a heated debate.

Some trade union representatives from a number of western oblasts then left the hall, explaining that their walk-out was in protest against the absence of amendments which could prevent such a union harming Ukraine.

UKTU Chairman Oleksandr Stoyan and his deputy Valentyn Pozhedayev abstained from voting on this issue. Mr. Pozhedayev pointed out that he could not vote in favor of a resolution whose text had not been handed to congress deputies.

Mr. Chub, chairman of the Kharkov oblast trade union, stressed that the leadership was pressuring congress deputies and raised the question of no-confidence in the UKTU leadership. It was decided to put the issue on confidence or no-confidence in the UKTU leadership on the agenda of the next plenum.

The congress also approved a statement protesting the confiscation of trade unions' property; a resolution on the beginning of preparations for the collection of signatures for holding a referendum; and specific appeals to the Ukraine prosecutor and the bodies of power, aimed at protecting working people's interests.

Morozov Issues Directive on Use of Language

LD2808110493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] As the defense minister's press service reported on 22 August, Defense Minister Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov issued a directive making it incumbent on the defense establishment to use the state language in its routine work, relations among the military, and paperwork. The minister's previous directive about the military personnel having to learn and speak Ukrainian has reportedly proved ineffective and largely sabotaged by the military remaining customarily Russophone.

Durdynets on Economy, Referendum, Nuclear Weapons

WS2708121593 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 1,3

[Interview with Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, by UKRINFORM correspondent M.Melnyk: "Having Taken One's Destiny In One's Own Hands"]

[Text] [Melnyk] Two years ago, Ukraine made its historical choice. Vasyl Vasylovych, how would you describe the course of the state-building? What has been accomplished during that time, what difficulties and challenges have had to have been overcome?

[Durdynets] I believe that the most important achievement of this historically short period is that Ukraine, a state with roots going back to the Kiev Rus, and a country with population over 50 million, finally joined the world society. The world respects us. They want to establish relations with us. Ukraine is recognized by 139 countries. Look how many flags stream over embassies in our capital Kiev.

The biggest European forums listen to the voice of Ukraine. Ukraine has become a member of the CSCE, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Community, and an associate member of the North Atlantic Assembly.

Ukraine has already developed the attributes of statehood including its own Armed Forces.

As for the difficulties, we do have them like any other country. True independence does not come easily. The situation is complicated by the fact that along with building our own state, we are transforming into new social and economic relations. This is generating political adversities and delaying the building process.

We are not denying that we face many acute problems today. Nobody is going to solve them for us. On the eve of the second anniversary of independence, we hope that our people and the foreign community regard these difficulties as temporary and as ones we can overcome.

[Melnyk] What has been done to stabilize the economy and to begin its recovery from the deep crisis? What, do you think, does the path to success look like?

[Durdynets] The Ukrainian Supreme Council, as well as the president and the government, attach great importance to this issue. After all, the social security of the people depends on the economic situation.

I must admit that our scientists, specialists, and state officials failed to provide the society with a program of economic reforms that would have met the real abilities of Ukraine, its traditions, and the mentality of the people. Now, the course and consistency of the reforms must be essentially adjusted.

Our goal is a market and socially oriented economy that would meet the demands of the people and be based on its own capabilities. It must take into account economic relations that have developed within the framework of the CIS, and possibilities of western capital investments.

Some important steps have already been made. Having adopted the Property Law, the Supreme Council opened a path to privatization, the main factor in the transition to market relations. Important documents on denationalization and privatization of enterprises, land, and housing, and appropriate legislative acts have been adopted. The commercialization of enterprises and organizations of state trade and public catering has been virtually completed.

The agrarian reform has been accelerated. The number of private farms quadrupled last year and now number 21,000. Of course, there is no doubt that it is not enough. The state will stimulate this process through all available means.

While supporting the development of farming, we will thoroughly assist collective agriculture enterprises that concentrate the main productive forces of the agrarian complex.

Today, peasants and everybody who helps them should be praised. Despite the shortages in technical and material resources, under unfriendly weather conditions, they have managed to grow a good crop and are making all the necessary efforts to protect it from bad weather. It can be said for sure that the country will have enough bread. This will be a gift on Ukrainian Independence Day from all agriculture workers.

To create a well developed economy and live no worse than the foremost countries of the world, we possess considerable material abilities and the necessary intellectual potential. Our people know how to work, too.

[Melnyk] But there is a long way to go before reaching such level, and today our people, especially elderly, disabled, and families with many children, are running short of the necessities. Do you think that the Supreme Council did enough to protect these classes of society?

[Durdynets] You are right in saying that under economic crisis, price hikes, and inflation, a considerable part of population, in particular its most vulnerable classes, have landed on the brink of poverty. The heart bleeds when you think that a worker, having worked decently all his life and gone through the war and post-war adversities, cannot afford a glass of milk. The Supreme Council will make every possible effort to gratify such people.

The welfare issue is always on our agenda. Over 30 legislative acts have been adopted, among them are those on unemployment, retirement, social protection of the disabled, state protection of families with children, protection of consumer rights, and others. Huge amounts of funds from the Ukrainian budget have been allocated to realize these projects; however, they are still not big enough.

The situation remains extremely complicated. The people expect the Supreme Council, the president, and the government to adopt urgent resolutions that would protect them against the devaluation of wages, and to provide social compensation for growing prices. In connection with this, at the next plenary session of the Supreme Soviet, among other urgent issues like "On Complex Government Activity Program for Stabilization of Financial System and Recovery of Ukrainian Economy" and "On Preparations of National Industrial Complex for Winter", we intend to discuss the status of welfare. When we fight at a Supreme Council session for every karbovanets in the minimum wage, we do not do it on some populist premises, but because we realize the burden of inflation. We are forced to go for that, though we know that welfare spending in our country has already gone beyond budget capabilities. Today, the necessity of adopting a new welfare policy is emphasized.

[Melnyk] At all levels of power, including the highest one, once in a while, a question is put forward: What kind of a country are we building? How would you answer this question?

[Durdynets] Ukraine is building a sovereign, democratic, and legally governed state. Principles of its social law will be determine by the Ukrainian constitution. During the course of the nationwide discussion on its draft, 47,000 clear-cut proposals and remarks were delivered. The draft constitution has been submitted to the Supreme Soviet. It includes priorities of human rights, provides legal grounds for civic society, and regulates market relations. The draft provides for equity of all forms of

property and enterprises, state structure based on power sharing, and for more local and oblast autonomy. The adoption of the constitution will help create legal state institutions, democratize the population, stabilize social processes, and complete the law reform. We should create in our country a social and economic relations' system that has been examined and adopted by the world civilization.

[Melnyk] Recently, there have been many discussions focused on the issue of nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian territory. Opinions differ. There are some who believe that the elimination of nuclear weapons will lead Ukraine to lose its independence. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Durdynets] We understand that the world is concerned about the fate of nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian territory, and expects a guarantee of the safe maintenance of such arms. At present, the Supreme Soviet is investigating the ratification of the START I Treaty and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Nobody should doubt our decisiveness to pursue the elimination of nuclear weapons. I have already had an opportunity to state that our people, having suffered the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, are not willing to experience another one.

But we would be irresponsible legislators if we did it in a hurry and carelessly, having not taken our national interests into account.

Resolutions that would prohibit further use of recycled uranium and plutonium for military purposes are necessary. The point is that we could use nuclear materials that are our property for peaceful goals. This is very important for our economy.

You should keep in mind that nuclear disarmament can ruin our economy. It will cost even up to 3 billion dollars. Assuming that the elimination of the nuclear weapons deployed on Ukrainian territory strengthens world peace and security, we can expect that the world will help us to do it. It is essential that Ukraine receives guarantees of security in the form of agreements or treaties from other nuclear states. This is neither bargaining nor blackmail, as some claim, but a thoroughly weighed and pragmatic approach.

We need the world to support and understand us in our dealing with the issue of ratification of the treaties. This really can become Ukraine's historical contribution to the European and world security.

[Melnyk] What could you say about the all-Ukrainian referendum issue?

[Durdynets] The Supreme Council has lately received a large number of requests from local councils, people's deputies, executive authorities, civil organizations, political parties and movements, and separate citizens to reconsider its resolution on the referendum. Many believe that 22 billion rubles designated for the referendum can be spent on some different goals instead. There are also doubts about the legal aspect of the resolution.

The Supreme Council Presidium, having pondered the requests from permanent commissions and local authorities, decided to convene, in the third week of August, the seventh session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, and discuss the issues connected with the execution of the all-Ukrainian referendum on confidence or nonconfidence in Ukrainian president and Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Everything will be made completely clear then.

[Melnyk] How will the Independence Day be celebrated this year?

[Durdynets] The Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers Presidium have recently adopted a resolution that recommends that local councils and authorities hold solemn meetings with the participation of representatives of workers, civil organizations, political parties and movements, the Armed Forces, the Frontier Guard, and the National Guard, on the Ukrainian Independence Day.

During the solemn gathering in Ukraine's capital palace Ukraine, I.S.Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, will deliver a speech. Other state officials, Ukrainian people's deputies, and representatives of Kiev and the oblast community will be also invited to this meeting.

Concerts will take place on the Independence Square. Theatrical performances will be held in stadiums. They will show traditions and customs of all Ukrainian regions, all ethnic minorities that live on Ukrainian soil. As we know, masses and prayers for Ukraine will be held in churches.

We do not demand any reports from local authorities. We trust their initiative. Like every year, they are preparing various festivities.

So, we invite everybody to participate in that holiday. We hope that it will hearten the process of building our independent state, consolidate the people, and bring some civil solace and respite.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Hints at Leaving Ruble Zone

LD2708171493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty August 27 TASS—It is not excluded Kazakhstan may soon separate from the rouble zone, judging by a detailed report on a stay of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Aktyubinsk region from August 25 through 26. The report was circulated here today by the KAZTAG news agency.

Nazarbayev voiced a possibility of separation at the Aktyubinskselmash agricultural machine-building production amalgamation, in response to complaints of amalgamation workers, saying it has been hard to go to Ukraine due to the circulation of Karbovanets and it has become difficult to go to Russia due to its use of new money.

In the words of the Kazakh president, both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan would like to stay in the rouble zone. "I wish with all my heart and soul the fulfilment of our agreement with Russian leaders. But it is still unclear whether we will use the Russian rouble, since credit issuance conditions are being discussed and it is unknown whether they will be acceptable," said Nazarbayev.

"I call for the soonest settlement of the whole range of problems in this sphere," noted Nazarbayev. At the same time, "one can also understand the Russians. Finances are the economy. That is why, we must be ready for everything, including separation from the rouble zone."

In Nazarbayev's words, "the republic will have nothing to do but to introduce a national currency" if a compromise is not reached. He assured the Kazakh leadership will "do its best to protect the population in money exchange. As need be our banks are capable to exchange money quickly and smoothly".

Nazarbayev's Welcoming Address to Antinuclear Conference

LD2708211193 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Excerpts] An international antinuclear conference opens on Monday [30 August] in Almaty. In connection with this the president of Kazakhstan addressed the participants of the conference: "I warmly greet the participants of the international antinuclear conference, who have arrived in Almaty with humanitarian and peacemaking goals", says the address. [passage omitted]

"Therefore, the first international action of the sovereign Kazakhstan has been the closure of Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, and therefore a powerful antinuclear movement has originated in the republic. In a short span of time, it became popular not only in Kazakhstan, but far beyond its boundaries. The antinuclear movement's active policy bears fruits, and what is more important, it breaks the practice of dangerous opposition between state and its people, it becomes a powerful barrier in the way of nuclear weapons, and it helps to eliminate the aftermath of [words indistinct]. Your aspirations are really noble and I wish the participants of the conference success. I hope that your ideas and the endorsed decisions will find you new advocates, speed up disarmament processes, and improve guarantees for the global disarmament of the world community."

Oil, Space, Communications Projects Reported

MK2808121093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 3

[Sergey Kozlov report: "Government Wants To Boost Oil Production Dramatically. Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko Sets Task 'To Keep Russia on Short Leash'"]

[Text] "All efforts should be concentrated on boosting the production of our own oil in order to keep Russia on a short leash for some time," stated Kazakhstan Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko during yesterday's cabinet conference.

According to the premier, relations with Russian oil producers are shaping up badly: "Russian oil refineries are not taking our oil. We are not paying, and we are not being paid."

The conference looked into boosting production of oil at the Kumkol fields in Turgay Oblast (western Kazakhstan), and the East-West oil pipeline project. The present level of oil production of nearly 1.8 million tonnes should be upped to 2 million tonnes a year by the end of this year, and to 4 or 5 million tonnes by 1994-1995. Concurrently, plans call for rebuilding the Pavlodar and Shinken oil refineries. In Sergey Tereshchenko's words, the Pavlodar oil refinery should be publicly floated with Russia's participation.

"We are still afraid of losing kopeks, and are losing millions as a result," the premier stated. Geology Minister Lev Trubnikov said also that the total reserve of oil at 13 oil fields in the area of Kumkol is estimated at nearly 300 million tonnes. According to the minister, "this region should be given priority attention." In his opinion, the two joint ventures formed today with Canada and Germany are inefficient. While tenders should be invited for the other fields (excepting the Kumkol), domestic investments are necessary in any event.

All these things considered, 6 to 8 million tonnes can realistically be produced today at the Kumkol fields in addition to 3 or 4 million at those being actively surveyed in this region.

Regarding the East-West oil pipeline project, it was stated that Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan should be brought in to build it. The task is being set to channel Kazakhstan's oil to the south—to oil refineries in Turkmenistan, and to Azerbaijan and on across the territory of Iran.

A decision was made to prepare in two weeks' time a draft decree on these matters. With this end in view, a trip to the Kumkol fields area was proposed next week by Geology Minister Lev Trubnikov and Nurlykhan Bekbosynov, Kazakhstan first deputy energy minister.

The prime minister set the task that "the entire republic give a hand to the Kumkol so that it can produce 5 million tonnes by 1995."

"As soon as we are no longer dependent on Russia in oil matters, it will talk differently with us. The whole problem lies in world prices," stated Sergey Tereshchenko, winding up the session.

A representative delegation of Ukraine's aerospace complex arrived in Almaty on 26 August. Led by Vladimir Gorbulin, general director of the Ukrainian National Space Agency, it included Stanislav Konyukhov, general designer of the "Yuzhnoye" design office, and Stanislav Us, chief designer of the "Yuzhnoye" science-production association.

The Ukrainian science-production "Yuzhnoye" complex formed an important part of the space sector of the former USSR. Its specialists engaged in the development and practical creation of technologies and equipment for orbital programs. The complex is responsible for the development of the "Zenit" booster rocket.

The Ukrainian group flew to Kazakhstan's capital from Baykonur having left several people there to work at the cosmodrome. The Ukrainian specialists' interests in Kazakhstan range from the building of mutually advantageous contacts between both countries' space agencies (the Ukrainian group was received on 26 August by Kazakhstan's aerospace agency chief Tokhtar Aubakirov) to discussions on the possibilities for joint commercial space projects.

The specialists from Kiev will stay in Almaty till 28 August before returning to Baykonur for talks with local Baykonur leaders based on the results of the meeting.

An international conference was held in Kazakhstan on 25 and 26 August to discuss the creation of a trans-Asia-Europe cable communications line (TAEK).

Taking part in it were representatives of the German "Bundespost Telecom," the Hungarian "Telecom," the Chinese Post and Telecommunications Ministry, as well as delegations from the Communications Ministries of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

According to program coordinator Mr. Dieter Freudensprung (Germany), an agreement founding the TAEK was signed last year at Urumqi (China) by representatives of the eight countries: Germany, Poland, China, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. Later they were joined by Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic. The construction of this sort of a cable communications line was prompted by the need for access, especially by the former USSR's republics, to the world communications network since none of them had telecommunications networks of their own.

The trans-Asia cable line is to link Frankfurt am Main in Germany and Shanghai in China. The objective of the conference in Almaty, according to Dieter Freudensprung, was to see the problems and to decide on ways to solve them. Problems have become evident of late. One of them is to plot the line on the map. The hard part of it is that the Russian Communications Ministry did not agree that the line should run across Russian territory between Rostov-na-Donu and Astrakhan. The Russian side gave no motives for turning down the request, which considerably complicates preparatory work.

The Almaty meeting considered six possible alternative TAEK routes bypassing Russia. One proposes to lay the cable on the bottom of the Caspian and Black Seas, or across mountainous regions of Iran and Turkey which would considerably add to the costs of the project and increase the time needed for its completion.

The final option was not decided. The conference also discussed which carrying capacity the different sections of the line should have.

U.S. Aid Expected for Privatization

LD2608100993 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Summary] The United States pledged $40 million to Kazakhstan in humanitarian aid in 1992. It is expected that another $27 million will be granted so as to implement the joint programs for privatizating and democratizing our society, constructing housing, and lifting agriculture, children's health care, and [word indistinct] out of crisis.

On 24 August, Zhanibek Karibzhanov, the deputy prime minister and the chairman of Goskomumushestvo [state directorate for state property], and Kreyd Bar, the director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, [name and title as heard] signed a contract on further cooperation. At a news conference, note was made of the fact that negotiations are being carried out on a joint upgrading of Kazakhstan's privatized enterprises and also developing financial institutions.

Asian Foreign Ministry Experts Confer in Almaty

LD3008093193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] A conference of Foreign Ministry experts from Asian and some other countries on the problems of trust and security in the region opened today in Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan. RIA reports that among the

problems to be discussed will be the initiatives in this sphere put forward by Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev at last year's session of the UN General Assembly. Participants in the meeting are to prepare a program for a foreign ministers' conference on cooperation and trust-building measures in Asia.

Almaty, Bishkek To Create Consortium of Banks

LD3008100393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The mayors of Kazakhstan's and Kyrgyzstan's capitals have decided to tackle on their own the problem of mutual payments between the two cities. It was reported today that a constituent agreement was signed on creating a consortium of interstate banks, Bishkek-Almaty and Almaty-Bishkek. The capital fund of the new financial association is 1 billion Russian rubles. Part of the sum invested by the Kazakh side will be transferred inside Kazakhstan to suppliers of coal to Kyrgyzstan's capital. This will help remedy the fuel problem in Bishkek.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Leaves on Official Visit to Afghanistan

LD2808083393 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Early this morning Imamali Sharipovich Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, left for Kabul on an official visit. At the airport of our capital city, Rakhmanov was seen off by Abdulmalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic; Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan; and other members of the secretariat of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers.

Rakhmanov will be holding talks and exchanging views with Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and other Afghan state and government leaders on the strengthening of the Tajik-Afghan border, noninterference in one another's internal affairs, the strengthening of peace, and assistance for the Tajik refugees currently residing in the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Corresponding documents will be signed. We will provide more detailed information on the official visit of our state leader Imomali Rakhmanov in later news bulletins.

Meets Afghan President

LD2908084493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] London August 29 TASS—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani met with visiting Tajik parliament Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov in Kabul on Saturday [28 August] to discuss relations between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala held talks with his Tajik counterpart Rashid Olimov which centered on non-interference in the internal affairs of the two countries, according to Kabul radio.

Arsala expressed the hope for the soonest possible release of four Russian and one Kazakh border guards captured by Afghan mujahideen in a border clash on August 10. They are expected to leave Afghanistan together with Rakhmanov upon the completion of his visit.

Returns to Dushanbe With Freed Hostages

LD3008103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 30 TASS—Four Russian and one Kazakh border guard kept hostage in Afghanistan returned to Dushanbe on Monday [30 August].

The five include Major Sergey Petukhov from the Kazakh peace-keeping force in Tajikistan, Privates Sergey Prokhorov, Yevgeniy Dudnikov, Aleksandr Babushak and Andrey Vorotintsev from Russian frontier forces in the Central Asian republic.

The were brought to Dushanbe by Tajik Parliament Speaker Imamali Rakhmanov who held three-day talks in Kabul.

Rakhmanov said the release of the five was the major result of his visit.

The border guards were seized on August 10 by a group of Afghan mujaheddin.

Paper Accuses Opposition Forces of Using 'Insane People'

LD2908192793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 29 TASS—Numerous "political fabrications" circulated recently in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe under the pseudonym of Dodar Mirzoyev turned out to be written by a 55-year-old Yuriy Plekhanov, a St. Petersburg resident registered at a city clinic for the prevention and treatment of psychoneurological diseases. This was reported on Sunday by the Tajik newspaper "NARODNAYA GAZETA" with reference to the results of a joint investigation by Tajikistan's National Security Committee and Russian Security Ministry officials.

The editorial headlined "Attention: Provocation" cites numerous extracts from letters and telegrams to Tajik governmental bodies, newspapers, regional leaders,

signed by an advocate of Democratic values in Tajikistan, which give "guidelines and instructions" as to how fight the Dushanbe communist regime.

The newspaper comes to the conclusion that "once opposition leaders, who have fled either to other former Soviet republics or abroad to escape the wrath of the Tajik people, use insane people to achieve their provocative goals", their chances of success are poor indeed.

Trade Union Federation Expresses Concern Over Economy

LD2908175793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 29 TASS—The presidium of the Tajikistan Federation of Trade Unions published in the local press on Sunday [29 August] a statement expressing concern over the worsening social and economic situation in the republic and sharp fall in living standards of the population.

The statement was provoked by the latest price rise for foodstuffs, including bread and milk, without serious preliminary governmental measures for social protection of the underprivileged and families with many children.

Although the trade unions leadership fully understands that the Tajik Government was forced to take these unpopular measures due to the difficult economic situation, sharp price increase for imported grain and raw materials, it insists on indexation of the population's incomes, rising minimal wages, pensions and allowances for the low income categories of the population.

Day of Mourning Announced for Crash Victims

LD3008093093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By TIA KHOVAR correspondent Mukhiddin Umarov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 30 TASS—The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan announced a day of mourning in the republic today after a civil airliner Yakovlev-40 crashed at Khorog airport causing death of several people, including an International Red Cross official.

German Ambassador Discusses Cooperation With Officials

LD2708212593 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Today, Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, received Dr. [Karl-Heinz] Kuhna, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, who has arrived in Dushanbe.

Expressing his gratitude to the head of government for the meeting, the German diplomat stressed that he arrived in Tajikistan and saw with his own eyes, and was convinced that the social and political situation in the Republic is becoming stabilized.

The issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation in different fields of economy, science, and culture were discussed in the course of the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. The two sides for this purpose made some specific proposals.

Foreign Affairs Minister [Rashid] Olimov also attended the meeting.

Tajik, Uzbek Defense Ministers Sign Agreements

LD2708195893 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Today the defense ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan had a meeting. Several cooperation agreements were signed in the course of the meeting. For example, the Uzbekistan Defense Ministry has decided to train cadres for Tajik Army.

Armenia

Officials Comment on Russian Kazimirov's Visit

Spokesman Addresses News Conference

NC2708205393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's personal representative and head of the Russian Federation's mediatory mission on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, left for Stepanakert today.

Our correspondent Lida Gazaryan was present at today's news conference held by the Armenian president's press secretary Aram Abrahamyan, during which a reference was also made to Kazimirov's visit.

[Begin recording] [Gazaryan] The press secretary said at the news conference that Vladimir Kazimirov will today discuss the cease-fire conditions and the possibility of implementing the Minsk Groups' schedule of urgent measures with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic leadership.

Armenia assesses both Kazimirov's mission and the Karabakh-Azerbaijan dialogue within the context of its policy to remain loyal to settlement of the conflict within the framework of the CSCE. Noting that as usual domestic instability is obstructing the settlement of the problem, Aram Abrahamyan hoped that Sunday's referendum in Azerbaijan would clarify this question and a (?group) would emerge that would be able to fulfill the demands of the UN and CSCE and not put the blame on uncontrollable organizations. Karabakh cannot be a battlefield for the (?struggle) of Azerbaijani politicians.

Azerbaijani propaganda and diplomacy are continuing to exploit the Karabakh-Azerbaijan conflict to score political points. In an effort to disrupt the good-neighborly relations between Armenia and Iran, disinformation has been disseminated to the effect that the Karabakh forces have reached the Iranian border. However, such efforts are in vain.

The UN representative in Armenia [name indistinct] visited Kapan on Sunday to investigate the bombing of Kapan by the Azerbaijani air force. The official took 300 photographs, 200 [words indistinct].

In commenting on the ruble zone, the press secretary said:

[Abrahamyan] This question requires a comprehensive approach. The reference here is not only to the ruble but the creation of a unified economic market that [words indistinct] both for Russia and the other CIS countries. This is because in the present situation, these countries apparently are not yet ready to function according to international market laws. Nevertheless, I hope that these issues will be finally clarified during the 7 September CIS summit. I want to draw your attention to the joint declaration issued by [names of republics indistinct] in which the leaders of the two countries noted that the CIS' economic mechanisms are not fully functional. As of 1000 today, the Supreme Council Presidium, government and the National Bank are holding a joint session to examine issues related to the ruble. Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan is taking part in the meeting.

[Gazaryan] in assessing as positive the recent dynamic press debate on the draft constitution, the press secretary noted that this is evidence of the emergence of the political dialogue. However, the basic shortcoming here is that the debate and the documents put forward by the opposition are highly politicized, whereas the constitution is above all a legalistic document [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Karabakh Foreign Minister Comments

NC2808111993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1055 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 28 (SNARK)—Arkadiy Gukasyan, the minister of foreign affairs of Karabakh, appreciated as useful the consultation of guidance of Karabakh with Vladimir Kazimirov, the ambassador of Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on special missions. On ending the meetings the head of Foreign Ministry of Karabakh said to the reporters that Russia is ready to assist the dialogue between official representatives of Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The participants mentioned the importance of direct bilateral negotiations. SNARK's reporter informs Karabakh was represented by Karen Baburyan, acting as chairman of Karabakh parliament, Robert Kocharyan, the chairman of Supreme Soviet, Arkadiy Gukasyan, the foreign minister, Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, the chairman of the commission of the Karabakh parliament on international relations, Samvel Babayan, the head of defence army of Karabakh. At negotiations the questions on organization, the meeting between leaders of Karabakh and Azerbaijan, and role of Russia in peaceful process have been discussed. Karabakh side has put forward its suggestion on the all questions, where there was the special attention to the guarantees and mechanism of non-renewing the military actions. In his turn Vladimir Kazimirov has spoken on his position connecting to these problems and on the point of view of Azerbaijan on the conflict settlement.

Fighting in Southern Karabakh, Border Shelling Reported

NC2708194593 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani armed formations continued their offensive operations against the southwestern borders of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Gadrutskiy Rayon from the direction of Kubatlinskiy Rayon on the night of 26 August and in the morning of 27 August.

According to the latest reports, the Karabakh forces are managing to resist the enemy's pressure. There are injured on both sides.

Davit-Bek in Kapanskiy Rayon again came under massive shelling from Kubatly on 26 August. One resident was killed, two others were injured.

Two Armenian soldiers were killed when they hit a mine planted by the Azerbaijanis near the southern borders of Gadrutskiy Rayon.

The situation mostly remains unchanged in this sector contrary to the reports by the Azerbaijani sources.

The situation on Armenia's borders: The Armenian Defense Ministry press service informed us that tension rose in Gorisskiy Rayon last night. Following artillery shelling, an Azerbaijani infantry group again launched attacks against the defensive positions near Kornidzor and Khndzoresk. The Armenian forces repulsed the enemy, inflicting considerable human losses on it. There are no casualties on our side.

Krasnoselsk and the border villages in Krasnoselskiy Rayon were shelled with Grad and artillery fire in the evening of 26 August. The Azerbaijani armed formations opened tank fire at a passenger car on Berd-Krasnoselk road at around 2200. Two passengers were killed and another injured. The defense forces in Tavushskiy Rayon returned fire.

A large concentration of Azerbaijani troops and hardware is being observed near Armenian border in Azerbaijan's Tavushskiy Rayon.

The situation has been calm in the other sectors of the Armenian- Azerbaijani border since last night.

Baku's Hostage Figures Disputed

NC2808090593 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani and Moscow mass media have repeatedly reported yesterday and today the statement by Acting Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev to the effect that 29 Armenian hostages have been released through the mediation of the International Red Cross while the Armenians are still holding 2,804 Azerbaijani hostages and have no intention of releasing them.

According to information available to us, only seven hostages have arrived in Yerevan so far and they are in the hospital. We asked Aleksandr Agasaryan, first deputy interior minister of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, to comment on the number announced by Geydar Aliyev.

He said that the number of Armenian civilians taken hostage is not 29, but 450. If they have really released 29 people let them announce their full names and where they were taken hostage. The fact is that the Azerbaijanis are seizing Armenian citizens of Russia and Georgia from trains or cars to exchange them for POWs and hostages. Therefore, the 29 released are Armenians seized from trains and cars.

He added that the International Red Cross representative, who is now in Stepanakert, is not aware of their release. Besides, it was the Karabakh side that first released five Azerbaijani POWs, who were taken to Baku from Stepanakert by Mario Raffaelli.

As for the claim that Armenians are holding 2,804 Azerbaijani POWs and hostages, Agasaryan said that this number has been exaggerated more than tenfold. Apparently, the Azerbaijanis also included in it the number of those killed on the battlefront. Agasaryan added that the Karabakh leadership had several times in the past appealed to Azerbaijanis to recover the bodies of their soldiers. However, the Azerbaijanis neglected them and did not take them.

Azerbaijan

Referendum Held on Confidence in President Elchibey

Good Turnout Reported

LD3008095293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku August 30 TASS—More than 90 per cent of eligible voters took part in the first referendum in sovereign Azerbaijan last Sunday [29 August], the Central Commission for Plebescite said in a report on the preliminary results of the vote on confidence in President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Commission Chairman Jafar Veliev told ITAR-TASS by telephone that the first results of the referendum would be published in two days.

Under the law of Azerbaijan on referendum, the plebescite is proclaimed valid if more than one half of the registered voters come to the polls. The same number is required to proclaim the decision reached through a ballot valid. In this case the decision is final and bounding on the entire territory of the republic. It can subsequently be annulled or changed only through another referendum.

Elchibey Faces 'Crushing Rejection'

NC2908155893 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By Christopher Boian]

[Text] Baku, Aug 29 (AFP)—Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, overwhelmed by a surge of popular hostility, was headed for a crushing rejection by voters

who cast ballots Sunday in a national referendum on confidence in his leadership.

Turnout in large cities throughout the country was high and referendum commission officials reported that 85 percent of the country's four million eligible voters had cast ballots by 5:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), with the polls due to remain open for another three hours.

In the capital, Baku, 80 percent turnout was reported while 72 percent turnout was reported in Nakhichevan, the Azerbaijani enclave along the Turkish border where Elchibey has been living in political exile since he fled the capital last June.

In the western city of Ganja, stronghold of Prime Minister Surat Guseynov, the military commander who led the army rebellion that forced Elchibey to leave Baku, turnout was put at above 85 percent, commission officials said.

Spokesmen for the Popular Front, the political movement led by Elchibey, denounced the plebiscite and claimed there was widespread falsification of ballots, but this charge could not be substantiated by any of the dozens of foreign diplomats, journalists and other observers monitoring the vote.

"People are coming here eager to vote," said Akhmed Rezayev, chairman of the referendum committee in the October district of Baku.

"Many are not even waiting until they get to the booth to mark their ballots," he said.

Dozens of informal exit polls conducted by reporters and diplomats who questioned hundreds of voters in Baku indicated that roughly three in four voters cast ballots of no confidence in Elchibey.

Among those who admitted they had voted against Elchibey was Geydar Aliyev, the Brezhnev-era Azerbaijani Communist Party boss who returned to Baku when the president fled and who is currently the acting president and parliament chairman.

Aliyev, 70, cast his ballot at the former Pioneer's Palace, an emblem of Soviet culture in Baku, and said "everything today is being carried out totally objectively, totally democratically."

Voters were being asked to respond yes or no to a single question: Do you have confidence in President Abulfaz Elchibey?

Referendum officials have said they do not expect to announce final results until Tuesday or Wednesday.

"Even a rigged referendum probably would have given Elchibey a greater show of support than he is likely to get in this vote," commented one western diplomat observing the plebiscite.

Elchibey, 53, the first and only democratically-elected official in post-Soviet Azerbaijan to be voted to office directly by the people in June 1992, is widely held responsible for the country's disastrous economic situation, its ongoing political crisis and a string of humiliating military defeats in Azerbaijan's undeclared war with Armenia.

"His popularity was already sinking but he really disgraced himself in the eyes of most Azeris when he left the capital" in June, a U.S. diplomat said here last week.

Aliyev, in a meeting with foreign diplomats on the eve of the plebiscite, vowed to organize new presidential elections in line with the constitution within three months of the referendum if, as seemed certain, the vote went massively against Elchibey.

He also warned of possible armed "provocations" from Elchibey loyalists in the Popular Front, but there were no reports of any major unusual incidents as the voting proceeded.

Although the government is struggling to cope with a fresh tide of refugees from the fighting in the southwest of the country, special provisions were made for refugees who have already made it to Baku and many of them voiced bitterness against Elchibey.

"I am ashamed to admit I voted for him last year," said Rihan Zenalova, a 27-year-old mother of three who fled her native village near the southwest city of Fizuli earlier this week after her husband was killed in the fighting there.

"But today I am voting against him. He did nothing to help us, nothing at all," she said.

In several districts of Baku, Elchibey was alternately derided as a "drunkard" and a "lazy fool," a view the new authorities in Baku have encouraged among the people.

At a news conference on Thursday, State Secretary Lala Gadzhiyeva provoked laughter from reporters when she said that Aliyev had attempted to call Elchibey at one o'clock in the afternoon but was unable to speak with the president "who is usually still sleeping at that time."

"I think a new leadership for the country will be better for all of us," said Narima Mustafayev, a 72-year-old retired physician.

"I believe new people will be better equipped to make realistic decisions on the war in Nagorno-Karabakh and the economy that will make us all better off," he said.

'Overwhelming Majority' Against Elchibey

LD2908213293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Reports from Baku say that preliminary returns on the referendum in Azerbaijan have shown an overwhelming majority of voters do not trust President Elchibey. The final results will be made public no sooner

than on Tuesday [31st]. Polling was over 80 per cent of four million of voters who have the right of franchise. [passage omitted]

According to acting President Geydar Aliyev, if Elchibey receives a no-confidence vote, new presidential elections will be held in the coming three months.

Aliyev Comments on Referendum, Elections

NC2908120693 Baku TURAN in English 1145 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 29 (TURAN)—Today Geydar Aliyev, acting president and the chairman of the Azeri parliament took part in the referendum on confidence to President Elchibey.

Answering the questions of the journalists after the voting he said, that "The referendum will positively influence the political situation in Azerbaijan. It will help us to unite and consolidate all the efforts for the defense of the country and resolving social- economic problems."

On the question, how does he feel physically, legally and politically G. Aliyev answered that "I feel very well in all this aspects."

On the question how has he voted, G. Aliyev said, that he voted against A. Elchibey "because the president, who fled his post and who does not carry out his duties in such a hard for the country moment should not be at the head of the state."

To the question of TURAN agency will the new presidential elections be held he said: "Sure, if the people vote against Abulfaz Elchibey."

According to the Constitution of the country, only parliament can appoint a new presidential elections.

Referendum Seen as Means To End 'Diarchy'

LD2708172593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindj Abdullayeva and Viktor Schulman]

[Text] Baku August 27 TASS—The referendum on confidence in President Abulfaz Elchibey, scheduled for August 29 in Azerbaijan, may not only end diarchy in the republic, but clarify the alignment of political forces in this former Soviet republic.

This prediction is based on a number of sociological surveys whose results were published ahead of the referendum by the local press and the confidence of authorities which decided to hold a referendum while the state of emergency remains in effect on Azerbaijan's territory. The need for a decisive move arose from the aggravation of the social and political situation in the republic after military setbacks in the republic's south-west. According to analysts, the referendum will draw a line under the "hot summer of 1993" which began with the massacre in Ganja.

According to analysts, the bulk of the population in the republic considers Elchibey to be solely responsible for what happened in Ganja and favours his withdrawal from the political arena, especially after he was stripped of his powers by the National Assembly. On the other hand, accusations are being levelled at Elchibey at all levels that with his connivance, Azerbaijan which has immense potential, including sizeable raw material resources, is stuck in a deep political and economic crisis.

According to local observers, dissatisfaction with Elchibey and his team from among the members of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan had taken a long time to mature. Arguments against him include fallacious economic, military and foreign political activity of the authorities under him.

Judging by the latest developments, the referendum in Azerbaijan is not likely to proceed smoothly. Not only because of resistance on the part of Elchibey's supporters, but also because of some political forces which oppose him until recently. This was announced unequivocally by the acting president, parliament Chairman Geydar Aliyev. According to him, reports have been lately coming from Ganja, where an opposition to Elchibey began at first, that the Ganja authorities were set against holding the plebiscite. Geydar Aliyev noted that Prime Minister Suret Guseynov, who is in Ganja on business, had told him by telephone that the voting would be held.

It can be surmised that these vacillations are backed by forces which do not wish Geydar Aliyev, whose rating is increasing all the time, to consolidate his positions at power. The recent developments in southern Azerbaijan, where a self-styled republic, Talysh-Mugan, was proclaimed, made clear what forces are seeking to take the power.

According to Geydar Aliyev's firm conviction, there is no need to put off the popular plebiscite, preparations for which have already cost the republic's budget more than half a billion rubles. Geydar Aliyev stressed that the republic's leaders would not permit any disruption of the referendum. Any destructive actions will be suppressed, Aliyev said.

Russian Envoy Kazimirov Continues Visit

Comments on CSCE Talks

NC2708170293 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 27 (TURAN)—The head of the Russian mission of the CSCE Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov and the representatives of the embassies the countries-members of the UNO SC

[Security Council], accredited in Baku, visited yesterday the region of concentration of the Azeri refugees, fled their homes as a result of the military offensive of the Armenian forces upon the territory of Azerbaijan.

The representatives of the diplomatic corps noted, that thousands of refugees live in the open air without food and medicines.

The delegation couldn't hold the planned meeting of the Azeri and Armenian parties in the village of Akhmedbeyli of Fizuli region. Armenians didn't arrive at the meeting.

The deputy-minister of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan Afiaddin Dzhalilov made a statement in this connection, that runs, that the refusal of the Armenian to held a rally witnesses the prolonging of the policy on the escalation of the armed conflict.

On his return to Baku late at night, V. Kazimirov said, that August 30-31 the conference of the CSCE Minsk group will be hold without the participance of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as the parties concerned. To V. Kazimirov's words, the decision to hold the conference in Moscow "is based upon the traditional ties, that link Russia to Azerbaijan and Armenia."

Criticizes Extension of Hostilities

LD2708171993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By correspondent Maysa Mamedov from Azerbaijan, including recorded remarks by roving Russian ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Mamedov] After the seizure of the district centers of Fizuli and Dzhebrail, a huge army of refugees has descended on the neighboring Imishlinskiy Rayon, whose population of 100,000 has doubled in the space of a few days. As there is no housing for them, refugees are camping out in woods and by the side of roads. There is a shortage of bread and drinking water. The threat of an epidemic is serious. This was explained to Russia's roving ambassador, Vladimir Kazimirov, to other foreign diplomats, and to Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, who accompanied them.

An even more tragic situation has developed in Zangelanskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons, where the enemy is continuing to develop an offensive deep into Azerbaijani territory from Kafanskiy and Megrinskiy Rayons of Armenia. According to reports from there, local inhabitants are now crossing the Araks River into neighboring Iran.

This area poses virtually no threat to the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh. In the opinion of the foreign diplomats, there is no justification for this offensive into southwestern Azerbaijan, which is receiving support from Armenia.

[Kazimirov] The nature of this conflict is changing markedly. Originally this appeared to be a struggle by the Armenians for the rights of their minority in Nagorno-Karabakh. But what we are seeing now, unfortunately, is an extension of the hostilities to areas far outside Nagorno-Karabakh, with all the conclusions which are to be drawn from that.

Comments on Talks With Armenians

LD2808144093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Natig Abdullaev and ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku August 28 TASS—Vladimir Kazimirov, ambassador at large and head of the Russian mediation mission for a peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, returned to Baku today after visiting Yerevan and Stepanakert.

According to the ambassador, who met in the afternoon acting Azeri President Gaydar Aliyev, "the tone of the conversation in Nagorno-Karabakh determined to a considerable extent the development of events in the southwest of Azerbaijan" which, in the opinion of the leadership of his country, acquired a dangerous character recently. Kazimirov said it was pointed out at the meeting that "Russia is against the continuation of hostilities in the conflict zone and insists on their immediate termination."

In the opinion of Kazimirov, the conversation in Yerevan, where he met Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, was more constructive. The Armenian leader regards problems dealing with the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict from a more sober-minded and realistic point of view. According to Kazimirov, Ter-Petrosyan assured him that he would "use all his influence for resolving that complicated problem."

The ambassador himself believes that "now it is the most appropriate moment to give up the attempts to resolve the Nagorno- Karabakh problem through the use of force and to pass over to exclusively political methods of its stage-by-stage settlement."

Meets Aliyev

LD2808161293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 28 Aug 93

["Urgent" item; by Natig Abdullayev, AZERTAC correspondent and Viktor Shulman, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 28 August—The position of Azerbaijan in the Karabakh issue remains unchanged. We want this issue to be resolved peacefully, exclusively by political means. This was stated by Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani National Assembly. He had a meeting in the course of the day with

Ambassador-at-Large Vladimir Kazimirov, the head of the Russian mediating mission for a peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

As reported earlier, the Russian diplomat arrived in the region last Monday as the personal representative of the Russian president. Having attentively listened to his report on yesterday's meetings and talks in Yerevan and Stepanakert, the Azerbaijani leader said he was bewildered by the position of Armenia, whose actions give rise to doubts as to the seriousness of its intentions to put an end to the conflict.

The leader of the republic noted that the trilateral meeting between representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia, due to have been held near Fizuli last Thursday, could have put an end to the conflict that has brought misery and suffering to both neighboring peoples. In this context he repeated he was "not against direct contacts between the warring sides, having stressed that they had already taken place on the military level." It is his opinion that an agreement must be reached as soon as possible to put a halt to the bloodshed and to do everything possible to ensure that it is not resumed in the future.

The acting Azerbaijani president also noted "the importance of Russia's mediating mission and its active involvement in this process for the settlement of the conflict." He stressed that "it was I who insisted that the personal representative of the Russian president should come to the republic." He emphasized the importance of continuing to search for ways toward peace and for all the interested sides to combine efforts in this direction.

Discusses Russian Actions

NC2808181593 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1409 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 28.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Dizziness with military success won't bring any good said Vladimir Kazimirov. The Russian Federation roving ambassador today, on August 28, at the meeting with acting as Azerbaijanian President Geydar Aliyev after his two-days trip to Yerevan, Khankendi and Azerbaijani districts where refugees are placed. We talk about the tragedy of hundred thousands of people who are living now in the open air and in the broiling sun. Conditions of their living are very terrible. Those who have their own tents think that they are living in the palace—Kazimirov pointed out. In Khankendi we had high words with their leaders, they tried to argue that they also have refugees from Shaumyanovsk and Mardakert, but these figures are uncomparable. This is the shocking statistics. I told them everything I think, particularly, that this conflict undergoes changes and acquires quite another coloring.

In return Geydar Aliyev stressed that he is satisfied that Russian Government took up his call and sent its representatives. And even during your peaceful mission, for two days running, Kubatlinskiy district has been severely shelled not from the upper Karabakh, but from the Armenian territory. I hope that with participation of Russia we'll reach the trilateral meeting we'll put an end to this barbarity.

Karabakh Talks Postponed 'Indefinitely'

NC3008090993 Paris AFP in English 0840 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug 30 (AFP)—Scheduled negotiations on the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh have been indefinitely postponed at Azerbaijan's request, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

An Azerbaijani government spokesman said the request had been made because of Sunday's referendum in the republic which confirmed the ouster of fugitive Azerbaijani president Abulfaz Elchibey and the people's confidence in acting president and former communist leader Geydar Aliyev.

The negotiations, held under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, were to have begun on Monday in the framework of the year-old Minsk process preparing for a peace conference between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Azerbaijan has in recent months suffered a series of military setbacks over the mountainous territory populated mostly by Armenians but which is part of Azerbaijan.

Armenian forces currently control the entire enclave as well as "security zones" in southwestern Azerbaijan proper. More than 10,000 people have been killed and many more displaced in the five- year war over the territory.

Fighting on Sunday [29 August] died down as the Armenian fighters were poised to reach Zangelan, in southwestern Azerbaijan, which would enable the separatists to control the whole region as far as the Iranian border.

The international community has condemned the Armenian advances into Azerbaijani territory, although Moscow has maintained a low profile on the issue.

But a special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Vladimir Kazimirov, has been trying in recent days to arrange a set of direct negotiations between Baku and the Armenian separatists from Nagorno- Karabakh.

The Minsk group, led by Italian diplomat Mario Raffaelli, involves nine mediating countries: Belarus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Sweden, Turkey and the United States.

Aliyev, Turkish Official Discuss Karabakh, Gumbatov

NC2708180793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, received Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ozden Sanberk on 25 August. Touching on the social and political situation, Geydar Aliyev explained the incidents in southern Azerbaijan in detail. He said: That state of affairs, for which the former administration is responsible, poses a threat to our national unity and statehood. The people are well aware of the situation now. In fact, they have struggled against the responsible elements. It was only through the strength of the people that decisive measures were taken against Alikram Gumbatov and his supporters in Lenkoran. Consequently, several of Gumbatov's supports have been sent to prison. The others have fled and hidden.

Referring to Armenia's aggression, Aliyev said: The Armenian Armed Forces have recently intensified their attacks on Dzhebrailskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons. They committed acts of violence in Zangelanskiy Rayon today.

Regarding the visit of Vladimir Kazimirov, special envoy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, to Azerbaijan, Aliyev said that regardless of the joint effort made to resolve the dispute in the region, neither Armenia nor the Armenian community in Nagorno-Karabakh wishes to hold talks.

Stressing that he has been alarmed by the internal developments in Azerbaijan, Ozden Sanberk asserted: Turkey believes that Geydar Aliyev, who is known as an influential politician, will be able to solve all the problems and remove the crisis situation in Azerbaijan.

Aliyev and Sanberk also discussed the prospects for improved cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

State Adviser Vefa Kulizade and Altan Karamanoglu, Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan, attended the meeting.

Further on Fighting in Karabakh, Border Regions

Armenian Forces Shell Border Regions

LD2708154893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report by AZERTAC correspondent Natan Barskiy for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 27 Aug—According to the information and analysis center of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense, villages bordering with Armenia in Azerbaijan's Kedabekskiy Rayon came under fire today. The rayon center of Ter-Ter in the north of Karabakh came under missile and artillery shelling.

According to the same source, the local populations of Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons jointly with Azerbaijani armed forces have repulsed continuing attacks by the Armenian side, despite the difficult situation here. Kubatlinskiy Rayon was being attacked throughout the night and in the morning from several directions. Encroaching on Azerbaijani territory, subdivisions of the Armenian Army from the military base in Kornidzor in Armenia's Gorriskiy Rayon are trying to take the populated centers of Gazydere [name as received] and Gyulyabird, where there is now bloody fighting.

If Gyulyabird falls, the experts in the Ministry of Defense say, the way to the road leading to the rayon center Kyzbatly will be open to the enemy.

Following an unsuccessful attack, populated centers in Zangelanskiy Rayon came under fire throughout the night from fire points in Armenia's Kafanskiy Rayon.

Offensive in Lachin Corridor Reported

LD2908161693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] According to a report from the Lur agency, subunits of the Azerbaijani Army have been carrying out attacks in the zone of the Lachin corridor on 28 and 29 August. Nagorno-Karabakh's defenses are containing the offensive. Both sides have had casualties. This morning, following artillery shelling, the Azerbaijani Army once again violated the state border of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic in the southwest part of Gadrutskiy Rayon. As a result of the response by Nagorno-Karabakh border troops, the Azerbaijani border intruders were driven back outside the republic.

According to information from Nagorno-Karabakh's Foreign Ministry, the Azerbaijani side has rejected four suggestions made by the Karabakh side about where to meet for negotiations at the summit level. The Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Ministry is continuing to hold consultations with the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry in order to reach a compromise.

'Critical Situation' in Kubatlinskiy

NC2808180593 Baku AZERTAC in English 1409 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 28 (AZERTAC)—A critical situation developed in the Kubatlinskiy district of Azerbaijan. The Armenian troops encircled the district from 3 directions Goris, Lachin, Gadrut are attacking positions of the Azeri National Army. Last night the Azeri troops had to leave Gyulabird settlement. The seized village of Basharat was burned yesterday. The fights are going on along the line of defence. In spite of incessant fights civilians are not going to leave their villages and taking defensive measures together with soldiers of the national army.

The situation in the Zangelanskiy district is still difficult. The local villages were being shelled from the territory of Kafan and Megri areas of Armenia during last night. The village of Sheyifli was mainly destroyed. There are many civilians casualties.

Kubatlinskiy Offensive Detailed

LD3008092093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to a report from the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the situation in Kubatlinksiy Rayon in the southwest of the republic remains critical. An offensive by Armenian armed forces from three directions—from Goris, a rayon center in Armenia; Gadrut, a city in Nagorno-Karabakh; and the Azerbaijani rayon center of Lachin, which was occupied by the enemy in May last year, is continuing. From recent military reports it follows that in the Fizuli section of the front, Armenian Armed Forces are continuing attempts to force their way through to the Iranian border using armored equipment. One of the latest attempts was thwarted on 29 August after fierce fighting eight kms from the border.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Plans To Form Own Political Party

LD3008093893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 30 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze today said in an interview with Radio Tbilisi that he intends to set up a political party and lead it. "I had a principle," he said, "not to head any party in order to avoid a split in society and parliament. But the country is perishing, those who want together with me to stop this tidal wave capable of sweeping away our state can join me".

According to Shevardnadze, a political party of this kind can politically rally the country and guarantee consolidation of society in Georgia. No single person or a group of people can become a factor of this guarantee. "We must create a political force which can act to prevent the onset of chaos or totalitarianism in Georgia," Shevardnadze said.

The head of the Georgian state denied possible allegations of his political opponents that he was set to create a new communist party. "Ours will be a peace force leading to the creation of a democratic society," he said.

Shevardnadze Proposes To Restructure Cabinet

LD2908153893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1259 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 29 Aug—At a session of the Georgian Supreme Council today, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze proposed a structure for a new republic Cabinet of Ministers. He believes that 16 ministries, three committees, 18 departments, two inspectorates, and three corporations should make up this structure.

Shevardnadze suggested inter alia that ministries of power, engineering, transport, architecture, and construction, as well as three committees that used to operate within the old structure, should be abolished and that new departments should be formed on their basis. "One other department may be created, incidentally—that for youth affairs," Shevardnadze said.

He believes that the Procuracy, the inspectorates, the Information and Intelligence Service, the Statistics Committee, and the Georgian National Bank should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the parliament.

The head of state believes that a cabinet system for forming the government would be the most appropriate for Georgia. However, he proposed to abolish the Presidium, and to transfer its functions to the Cabinet of Ministers itself. At the same time, Shevardnadze spoke in favor of preserving the institution of deputy prime minister, of whom there are five, justifying this proposal by the need for deputy prime ministers to conduct independent activity on the interstate level.

The Georgian Supreme Council has begun to consider the new structure of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers suggested by the head of state.

Parliament Debates Amendments

LD2908205593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The confrontation of forces and overall tension that started in parliament on 27 August reached their climax today.

The head of state and chairman of the parliament introduced a draft bill envisaging amendments to the law on the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia. The Republican faction submitted an alternative bill. [indistinct passage]

These two bills were to be discussed today. However, the discussion turned into an acrimonious debate.

Here is an interview with Member of Parliament [indistinct passage]

[Announcer] Let us now listen to Member of Parliament Mikheil Naneishvili [leader of the Liberal Democratic Party].

[Naneishvili] "It seems that the head of state has lost time. He should have dealt with this issue earlier. His attempt to unite parliament as a unanimous body was doomed from the beginning. Now trends have emerged in parliament that are pointing to the possibility of the opposition ending up in the majority. However, I believe that there is still some time left. I think that the head of state should move very quickly to form a parliamentary majority that will support him."

[Announcer] The next interviewee is Member of Parliament Akaki Asatiani [Supreme Council chairman under Gamsakhurdia and head of the Union of Traditionalists].

[Asatiani] "What Mr. Shevardnadze has proposed is unacceptable for our union. We disapprove of it not because it was submitted by Shevardnadze, but because it will block Georgia's progress. The Republicans' draft is better, but it is not fully acceptable either.

[Unidentified correspondent] "Are you submitting your own bill?

[Asatiani] "No, we are not. There is no sense in pointless debate. [passage indistinct] If Shevardnadze persists in setting himself on a collision course with parliament at a time when there is no provocation on the part of the legislature, if he assumes the role of the leader of a group or fails to take decisive measures to improve the economy, he will forfeit his position. Indeed, today he is not capable of performing his duties successfully. Nevertheless, I would be against his departure, taking into account the foreign aspect. He is still playing a positive role in Georgia's foreign policy."

[Announcer] We also spoke with Mr. Tengiz Sigua about the situation in Samegrelo [Mingrelia].

[Sigua] "The situation is extremely tense, but the only solution is a dialogue. Military confrontation is inadmissible. It is necessary to set up a delegation consisting of sensible people who will go there and start a dialogue.

[Correspondent] "Mr. Sigua, if a majority and minority in parliament are formed, which side will you take?

[Sigua] "I still cannot say who will make up a majority faction, because parliament is in such a state of chaos that it is very difficult to see...[pauses] A month ago it was clearer than it is today. Political maneuvering is going on. This is why it is so difficult to predict. There is one thing I can say now. I will not be on the same side of the National Democratic Party. I am fundamentally opposed to the ideology and activities of this party."

Shevardnadze Comments on Peacekeepers in Abkhazia

LD2708204093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] On 27 August, at the parliament session, the head of the Georgian state made a statement concerning the presence of foreign observers in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict zone. He made it clear that at the moment it could not be expected or demanded that the major function on separation of the sides be placed on the UN peacekeeping forces.

First, their aim is a mission to complete the incident and rule out any possibilities of its recurrence. Secondly, Russian representatives of the Tripartite Commission have already acquired this function. Here is the logic: Either we cooperate with Russia or we don't. However, it is impossible to count on the Security Council's taking any decision without the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation, for it will be torpedoed by them [as received]. Mr. Shevardnadze emphasized.

He informed [the parliament] that a resolution on the deployment of the UN peacekeeping forces had not been actually passed. Even his trip could hardly speed up the consideration of this issue since the conflict was still "smoldering." The head of state pointed out that a temporal factor was also to be taken into account in the issue of their deployment.

Mr. Shevardnadze assured parliament members that he would make an attempt to appeal to the UN secretary general and Mr. Yeltsin so that they precipitated the arrival of peacekeeping forces under the UN flag.

The chairman of the Georgian parliament, in the light of the above-mentioned arguments, requested the deputies to refrain from any appeals addressed to the secretary general.

UN Delegation Views Conflict Zone

LD2908094093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—The situation remained calm in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. There have been no reports about fighting in the past 24 hours, according to the Abkhazian parliament.

A U.N. delegation visited a bridge near the village of Nizhnyaya Eshera (lower Eshera) on Saturday. However the Georgian side failed to provide for their further trip and the delegation had to return to Gudauta, the Abkhazian Defence Ministry said.

On August 31 a humanitarian convoy is expected to be dispatched from Gudauta to Tkvarcheli, the Abkhazian Defence Ministry said. However on Saturday Georgian army general identified only as Uchadze demanded in violation of the agreement that Abkhazia hand over the

village of Shroma to Georgian troops and release all Georgian prisoners of war, according to the Defence Ministry.

Abkhazia Suspends Release of Georgian POW's

LD2808121193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1123 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi August 28 TASS—The Georgian side continues to withdraw its combat materiel from the eastern front. This conclusion was drawn by the joint commission on a settlement in Abkhazia, which returned here after a fact-finding trip last night.

The commission stated that the Georgian side dispatched a barge with 210 troops and 38 pieces of materiel from the Ochamchira port to the Poti port. A report was also received that the Georgian side is ready to pay for a two-day use of a large Russian landing ship to transport combat materiel to the Poti port. The commission plans on Saturday to continue the tripartite inspection, including coast guard and shipping facilities.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of the Russian part of the joint commission that the deadline for releasing the last group of Georgian POWs (25 people) who are in Gudauta, expired on August 27. They are to be released and not exchanged, since the Georgian side has no Abkhazian POWs, which was recorded after a tripartite inspection trip.

However, according to a decision by the Abkhazian leaders, the release of Georgian POWs was suspended, since the Georgian side did not fulfil conditions for the withdrawal of its materiel, although this issue at all the meetings of the joint commission was not made dependent on the solution of military problems.

The Russian part of the working group on refugees and POWs requested the Abkhazian leaders to release the remaining Georgian POWs without any additional conditions and to set a date for their release.

Withdrawal of Equipment From Abkhazia 'in Jeopardy'

LD2908121193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1144 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi August 29 TASS—The press centre of the Georgian Defence Ministry said on Sunday that the withdrawal of Georgian heavy military hardware from Abkhazia scheduled for Sunday [29 August] is in jeopardy. The press centre said that the Russian side which was supposed to provide a ship to transport army machinery has "put forth unacceptable conditions at the last minute."

"The Russian military said the machinery would be loaded only by Russian soldiers and all breech-blocks and optical devices would have to be removed," the press centre said. It also said that Russian military officials refused to take aboard the ship Georgian maintenance personnel. "These conditions do not rule out that the hardware would not be transported elsewhere," the press centre said.

Russia, Georgia Disagree Over Armor Withdrawal

LD3008094793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0902 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 30 Aug—The tripartite inspection of the situation at the eastern front is continuing in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. On 29 August, members of the inspection group finished checking the naval forces of both countries. The press center of the Russian side of the tripartite commission reports that the Georgian naval forces that have been involved in the Abkhaz conflict are now concentrated in the port of Sukhumi. Abkhaz navy ships are concentrated in Gudauta and Pitsunda. Armor has been removed from navy launches, and there are no munitions.

The operative report of the Abkhaz Defense Ministry is not as optimistic, as it claims that not a single armor unit was withdrawn from Abkhazia in the last 24 hours. The Abkhazian source claims that Georgians have been loading into sea transport not only armor but also possessions.

A large Russian Federation assault ship arrived today in Sochi port. It intends to remove Georgian armor from Abkhazia. As has already been reported, the Georgian side has agreed to pay for 48 hours of using the ship. The press center of the Georgian Armed forces stationed in Abkhazia reported, however, that the Russian side demands that the armor should not be accompanied by Georgian military experts, and this proviso does not suit the Georgian side.

Interior Troops Being Formed in Abkhazia

LD2608162893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—The forming of interior troops began in Abkhazia. A regular meeting of the Joint Commission for the Settlement in Abkhazia decided on Wednesday that their numerical strength will be 2,500 people, says a report of the press service of the Abkhazian Parliament.

The meeting endorsed the register of railways and facilities to be guarded by Abkhazian interior troops. Specific facilities to be guarded by an Abkhazian regiment of interior troops and a unit of Georgian interior troops will be defined within a week.

According to the same report, the Abkhazian side proposed to form the structure of a regiment of interior

troops numbering 2,000 to be deployed in the city of Novyy Afon, including three battalions in Ochamchira, if the Georgian side forms a battalion with a numerical strength of up to 500 men to be deployed in the Gali district. The Georgian side proposed to form a unit of interior forces with a numerical strength of 1,996 men with the deployment of five battalions in three populated localities, including Ochamchira. On this condition the Georgian side agrees to terms of the Abkhazian side.

The press service reports that by Friday the sides should inform each other of the decisions taken, endorse the composition of subcommissions for the forming of a regiment and a unit of interior troops and to refer the list to the staff of the Joint Commission.

Interior Ministry Officer Describes Senaki Assault

LD2808142293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] A little while ago we received a phone call from Zaza Bilikhodze, an officer at the Georgian Interior Ministry press center. He told us about the assault on the Senaki headquarters by units headed by Vakhtang Kobalia. Here is the recording:

[Begin Bilikhodze recording] Igor Narmania, a deputy of the former Supreme Council of Georgia, yesterday telephoned the press center of the Senaki headquarters. He suggested that they pay a joint visit to the Senaki church to attend the liturgy on the day of Virgin Mary's passing. The suggestion was accepted by the command of the headquarters.

However, on 28 August at 0400 Kobalia's armed unit, using tanks and armored vehicles, raided the police picket, broke through it, and shelled the headquarters with large-caliber armaments.

The assaulters captured the headquarters building after an hour-long battle because of an advantage in equipment and personnel as well as the cowardice and carelessness of some of the police officers. Members of Kobalia's band disarmed policemen, seized ammunition and private and state-owned vehicles, took away objects of private use, even toothbrushes, and forced the policemen to leave the town. The two-way shooting resulted in casualties on both sides. The number of casualties is being determined.

This seems to be how Kobalia implements agreements reached during negotiations and congratulates his countrymen on the Christian festival of Mariamoba.

Shevardnadze Calls For End to Bloodshed

LD2908153193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 29 Aug 93

["Excerpt" from speech by Eduard Shevardnadze at a parliament session on 29 August—recorded]

[Text] Before I get to my information, I would like to speak very briefly about the latest situation created in the zone of Mingrelia and Poti. We returned very late last night. We were in Poti and Kutaisi, held meetings with representatives from Tbilisi, Abkhazia, Ajara, rayons of Mingrelia region. I do not think we are ready today to hold parliament debates on this subject. But it must be mentioned that the leadership, the parliament, political parties—at least most of them—have recently involved in this process, trying their best to move the process of reconciliation and accord from words to deeds.

As a matter of fact, a lot has been done. You remember those actions in Abkhazia when the movement started and, as it is usually said, the ice began to thaw. Then there were meetings of our representatives at various levels. There was contact yesterday, too. With our consent, Mr. Otar Patsatsia talked to the leaders we actually have to deal with. With consent and also at my request, Defense Minister Gia Karkarashvili met with them and had long talks with them in order to secure the flawless withdrawal of units from Abkhazia. As far as I know, as he informed me, they came to an agreement on almost every issue, including the Senaki problem, and problems of other adjacent rayons. They agreed that conflicts of all kinds will be ruled out and any kind of provocation will receive an appropriate assessment.

To tell you the truth, we all were so satisfied that the talks achieved the breakthrough which the talks between Georgians and our compatriots in general [words indistinct] We all ruled out anything unexpected and any adventurous actions. Unfortunately, once again we were wrong. And now we have to deal with the most complicated and most difficult situation.

You apparently know, you probably got the necessary information through the mass media that rather a large number of units raided Senaki, Khobi, and Abasha at dawn yesterday. I must tell you that it was unexpected both for us and for the troops and police forces stationed there. It was a sacred day yesterday [Virgin Mary's Day in the Orthodox calendar] and I must admit that no one could have imagined that on such a day a Georgian would raise his hand against a Georgian, that a political force would set out against its country and shed blood. Unfortunately, this is what happened yesterday.

After this, I spoke to Mr Otar Patsatsia. His initiative was similar to mine. He met with the leaders. The negotiations will continue. We cannot speak now about any agreement. A lot must be made explicit today or tomorrow.

I do not want to use expressions which could block all paths forward in our relations. But all that happened yesterday, in my opinion, exceeded all limits and cannot be placed into any sensible frame.

This was a premeditated action aimed at pushing Georgia into an extreme situation. In particular, all this was aimed at blocking the vital route. I was told this morning that it is already blocked. They know very well

that the government will not cede Poti and therefore, the only thing they can do is to cut off the main arterial way. Hence, there is a danger that it will not be possible to carry wheat to our country or to Armenia and Azerbaijan, but especially to our country. And not only wheat. Other targets are fuel, the minimal quantity of which we receive and deliver to the population, foodstuffs, and humanitarian aid.

Incidentally, I have to tell you that 40 tonnes of humanitarian aid, addressed personally to me from, if I am not mistaken, the United States, was stopped in one of the areas I mentioned and was looted. The aid was destined for the population of Sukhumi.

Well, that is just a detail against the background of everything else that is now happening. Today, the government will consider this. Yesterday, I had meetings in Kutaisi with the appropriate institutions, but since I left I know that the organizers of the action will pay more or less attention to this speech of mine.

And I want to address them. Do not lead Georgians along a senseless way. No one needs this. The country could get into a desperate situation, the most desperate situation, the most complex and desperate situation. If our people want us to raise our hands and surrender to someone, let us vote on it in the parliament and surrender to the people organizing all this. I ask everyone to consider everything, all possible consequences.

I know what hopes exist, what hopes people have. There certainly might be people who would surrender easily, hand over arms, give weapons away. There are many people like this in Georgia, and not only in Georgia. We should think of those who would gain from this, whose interests are touched.

If we are speaking about the government, I am already tired of saying the same thing : let us sit down and discuss matters, discuss and adopt a resolution which will serve the interests of Georgia.

I appeal to people not to cause bloodshed, not to allow a new wave of misfortune to rise. We have yielded a lot. We have connived at many things. They also made some steps which were not easy. So, let us take this into consideration.

I ask them, man to man, as Georgian to Georgian, withdraw your units from Senaki, Khobi, and Abasha, and let us continue our dialogue. Do not do things which will cause famine in Tbilisi, and not only in Tbilisi, but also in Kutaisi and in Georgia as a whole. This is not in anyone's interest. It cannot be done.

I said yesterday that on this sacred day, killing and bloodshed is impossible, because if those responsible are not punished by men they will be punished by God. Do not do this. Punishing you means punishing Georgia. This blood is Georgia's blood, whoever sheds it. Do not do this. We have bitter experience.

I appeal to political parties which have appropriate contacts: You know very well that nothing can be concealed in this world, so make use of your opportunities. This regards not only political parties but individual figures, too. Use your opportunities and your influence on these forces so that we can avoid the worst. We must avoid this. Otherwise, the government will have to consider what it has to think of: restoring order and establishing order. This will cause grave consequences, very grave consequences.

This is what I wanted to say without dark colors and without dramatization. I address these words to all citizens of Georgia, and send a few words to those who started all this.

Estonia

Two Bomb Explosions in Tallinn Detailed

LD3008113393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] There were bomb explosions in Tallinn on both Friday and Saturday [27 and 28 August]. A powerful explosion took place on Friday at 1745 in Tallinn in front of Number 35 (?Palgi) Street, which is a residential house. No one was hurt. The police managed to catch a young man born in 1977 trying to get away on a bicycle. The 16-year-old confessed that he exploded the bomb just for fun. The police discovered a whole store of ammunition at the young man's home, with two 120-mm, two 70-mm, and one 80-mm caliber shells, one hand grenade, and a large quantity of cartridges.

On Saturday at 1020 two men of Transcaucasian appearance entered a privately-owned shop on Karberi Street in Lasnamae, one of them holding a hand grenade. The criminals ordered the staff and customers out of the shop, exploded the grenade in the shop, and escaped in a car.

Finnish Military Leader on Cooperation, Training

WS2608142693 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1927 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 25—Estonian-Finnish military cooperation focuses on training higher military personnel, the visiting head of the Finnish Defence Forces, Admiral Jan G.Klenberg, said at a news conference in Tallinn.

Mr. Klenberg was on an unofficial visit to Estonia on August 24- 25. The aim of the visit was to get acquainted with the work being done in building up Estonia's defence system. Before his departure, he gave a news conference at the Tallinn Airport.

Admiral Klenberg noted difficulties a small country faces in building up its defence system. He said the Finnish side considers training officers and noncommissioned officers the highlight of Finnish-Estonian military cooperation. A remarkable progress has already been made in this field, he said.

Wednesday morning, Admiral Klenberg and his accompanying military personnel were taken to a tour in the ex-Soviet naval base of Paldiski in north-western Estonia.

The guests were shown around by commander-in-chief of Estonian armed forces, General Major Aleksander Einseln, and the Defence Forces' deputy chief of staff, Colonel Raul Luks.

Finnish army leaders attended a military drill at the Pohja infantry company and talked with soldiers. Admiral Klenberg took an interest in the Estonian soldiers' living conditions. The guests were also taken to the northern and southern ports of Paldiski.

Mr. Klenberg was hopeful that Estonian authorities would soon be in control of the entire town still partly controlled by the Russian Navy and could start building a commercial port.

The highlight of Klenberg's visit was meeting with former Estonian volunteers who fought on Finland's side against an aggression by Communist Russia in 1939-1940.

Commander-in-chief of Estonian Defence Forces, General Einseln, said he was satisfied with the continuing military cooperation between the two countries. Thanks to Finland's assistance, Estonia now possesses a considerable defence force. There is no reason, however, to speak about a military alliance of the two states, he claimed.

Lithuania

Brazauskas, Yeltsin Reach Troop Withdrawal Accord

LD3008103693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Statement by President Algirdas Brazauskas in Vilnius on 30 August—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear people of Lithuania, today at this very hour we are experiencing a special moment for Lithuania. I am able to convey good news to you. During my conversation this morning with Russian President Boris Yeltsin it was agreed that the Russian Army will be withdrawn from Lithuania by the end of this month.

It can clearly be said now that the firm and peaceful policy pursued by Lithuanian diplomacy and by me, as president, last week has been justified. I feel and I have been feeling the wish of the Lithuania people to do everything so that the Russian Army leaves our land as soon as possible, without giving up our fundamental stand. This aim has been achieved, although a week ago our relations with Russia were shaken.

Scrupulous preparations, uninterrupted contact with President Boris Yeltsin, and a conversation which has taken place just now, has brought a turning point to the better which has been expected by all of us. It was a good, frank conversation. With President Boris Yeltsin we found a compromise acceptable to both sides and agreed on a summit meeting in September. We coordinated with the Russian president on a bilateral declaration which stresses that the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania opens up a new, I would say, clean page, in relations between the two states. An opportunity has been created to sign a treaty on the most favorable regime in trade relations, so essential to both sides. Having signed corresponding agreements, we will be able

to cooperate in a more active manner with Kaliningrad oblast. The issue of compensation for damages does not remain unnoted. It is being linked with further negotiations.

Today I would first like to thank all of you dear people of Lithuania. Your firm will to live free and independent from foreign powers has been constantly influencing the efforts of our diplomacy to achieve agreements. Our calm attitude and dignity, even after our relations with the neighbor in the East worsened, enabled us not to go into dangerous extremes and achieve this result.

All the people in Lithuania are grateful to the democratic states in the world, too, and international organizations which have been effectively supporting our aims. After the situation aggravated, they have been firmly supporting the stand of the Lithuanian leadership of not interrupting the dialogue with Russia and striving for a compromise with peaceful diplomacy. I would like especially to stress the clear and favorable stand of the European Community, the Council of Europe, and also of the United States.

Lastly, today we can say good words addressed to the emerging democratic Russia and its leaders. Changes taking place in Russia will have influence not only on the neighbors of this huge state, but also on the whole world. We are vitally interested that these positive changes, which we especially feel today, become irrevocable. The meeting of the presidents and prime ministers last Friday in Jurmala once again demonstrated the coordinated stand of the three states on the withdrawal of the Russian Army. I wish to express my firm belief that the new situation in Lithuanian-Russian relations after the withdrawal of the army will have a positive influence on the Latvian and Estonian negotiations with Russia.

Dear compatriots, tomorrow we will with dignity and goodwill see off Russian servicemen returning home. It will be a historic day for Lithuania, comparable with 11 March, when after an interval of 44 years we will be able to enjoy complete sovereignty of our state. On this occasion I appeal to you, dear ones beginning to live being completely free, let us endeavor to be better and more lenient to each other. Let us all try to give up suspicion and anger darkening our lives. This is essential not only on the eve of the visit by Holy Father John Paul II, but always and for all of us. Thank you.

'Text' of Lithuanian-Russian Declaration on Ties

LD3008111693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation are for the further development of bilateral relations based on the principles of sovereignty, equality, noninterference into each other's affairs, and respect for each other's interests. The two sides will do everything to enliven mutual relations and strengthen mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres and will develop their political contacts.

Lithuania and Russia regret that an agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian army from the territory of the republic of Lithuania was not signed in due time. However, such a state of affairs must not be allowed to worsen the common climate of Lithuanian-Russian relations and harm them.

It has been agreed to resume the troop withdrawal and to complete it in the nearest future. The formal departure of the Russian army and the end of its presence in Lithuania will open up a new page in Lithuanian-Russian relations. New impetus to the development of mutually advantageous Lithuanian-Russian trade and economic cooperation must be given by the preparation and signing of a trade agreement.

It is essential to endeavor to maintain and strengthen extensive contacts between the Republic of Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast in the Russian Federation. This will be facilitated by negotiations on the earliest conclusion of Lithuanian-Russian intergovernmental agreements ensuring the normal vital activity of the oblast and regulating issues concerning the transit of goods and passengers through the territories of Lithuania and Russia.

The preparation of an agreement on social security provisions for the Russian armed forces pensioners will be completed in the nearest future. The issue of compensation will be the subject of further negotiations.

The entire range of Lithuanian-Russian relations will be thoroughly discussed during a meeting beeting between Algirdas Brazauskas, president of the Republic of Lithuania, and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.